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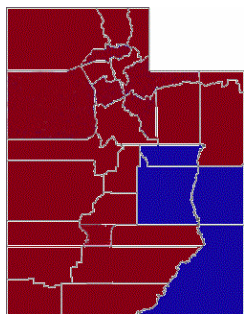
## Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments

### Community Needs Assessment

### Data Analysis

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#### Summary



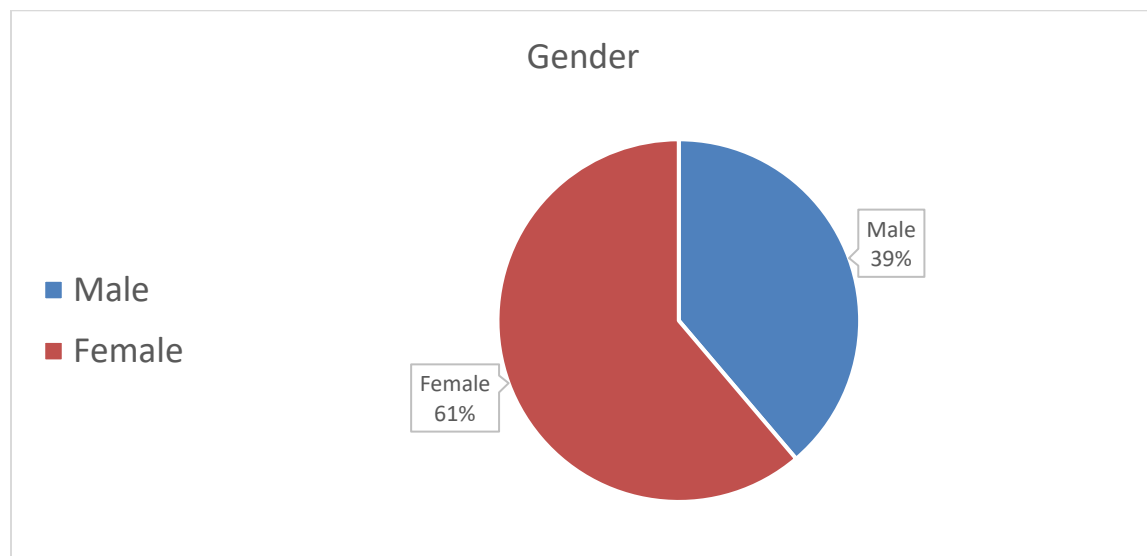
The Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments (SEUALG) is an interlocal government agency that functions as a public Community Action Agency for the purpose of receiving Community Services Block Grant funding on behalf of its member counties. The SEUALG also provides economic and community development, aging services, utility assistance, rental assistance, Weatherization, Circles, Housing Rehab and Ground Up Construction and other community service programs in Carbon, Emery, Grand and San Juan Counties. Southeastern Utah is a large region, covering 17,574 sq. miles, which represents approximately 21% of the state of Utah. The SEUALG service area includes the “Utah Strip” section of the Navajo Reservation and small portions of the Southern Ute Reservation lands. This is a very sparsely populated region, and the population has been declining. In 2019 the district population was 55,397 and in 2020 the estimated population was 54,424. The average poverty rate for the region is 16% and the number of individuals below the poverty level are 9,082. The SEUALG currently receives an annual Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) of approximately \$140,000. Community Services Block Grant funding is used to operate food banks in Carbon, Emery and Grand Counties, and a supplemental home delivered, prepared meal nutrition program for low-income and disabled residents of San Juan County. Food bank employees provide case management and resource/referral information to food bank clients to link them with other programs available through the SEUALG and partner agencies that provide services and activities to help address issues of employment, education, financial

literacy, housing, nutrition, and/or health to help combat the central causes of poverty. By linking clients to these services, it increases families in reaching self-sufficiency.

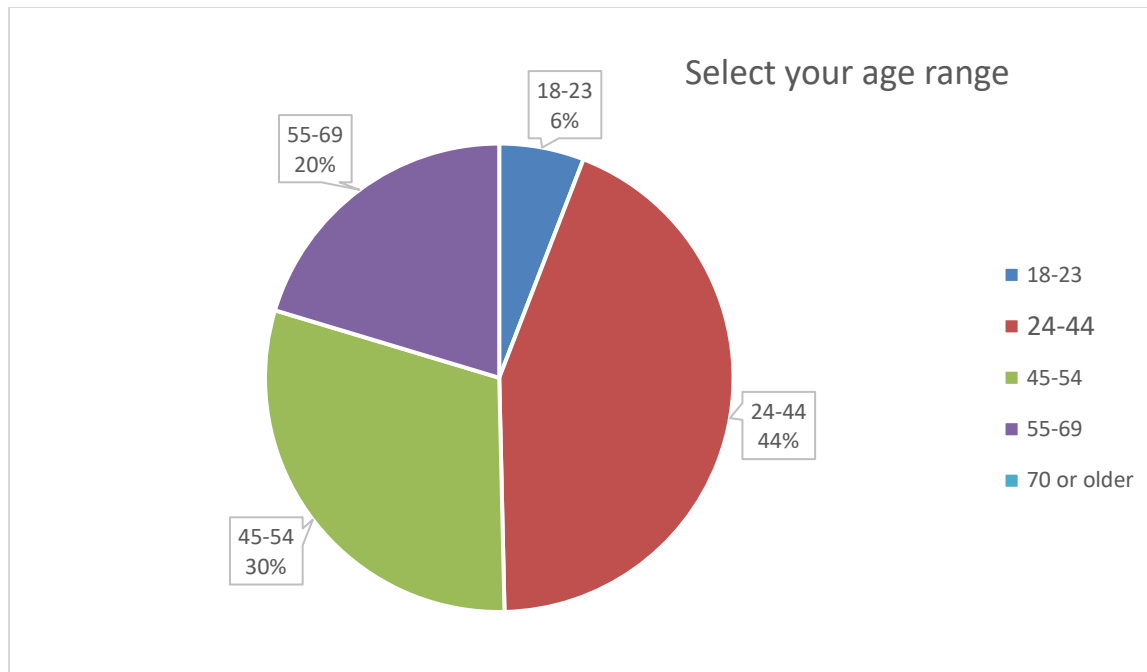
Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments and Food Bank collected data from clients seeking services and assistance, non-clients, community partners from the private, public, educational, faith based, and community based, community leaders, non-profit organizations, focus groups, community forums, personal interviews, and partnership meetings. SEUALG partnerships and staff tabulated the information collected from the survey process. SEUALG staff met regularly during 2021 and 2022 with district service providers and advocacy groups such as Interagency Coordinating Councils, United Way of Eastern Utah, CARE Coalition, Tripartite Board, Local Homeless Coordinating Councils, Community Development Boards, Aging Programs, School Districts, Housing Authorities, Public Health Departments, and Community Partnerships.

## Methodology

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments reviewed and collected data a wide range of data quantitative and qualitative data for the Community Needs Assessment. Data was collected from clients, non-clients living with low incomes, key-stakeholders, and community partners. A survey was sent out to community partners, low-income clients, non-clients, and we received 404 responses, including 233 from Carbon County, 61 from Emery County, 67 from Grand County, and 43 from San Juan County. Responses from this survey were received from public, private, educational institutions, community based, faith based, and other individuals in our region. Program Managers, and staff held focus groups with clients, non-clients, community members, and low-income community members. Program Managers and staff interviewed community members, low-income clients, and non-clients in Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan. Most of the personal interviews were completed over the phone.



Data from Community Needs Assessment Surveys



Data from Community Needs Assessment Surveys

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments comprehensive Community Needs Assessment includes data specific to poverty and includes both quantitative and qualitative data from our geographic service area.

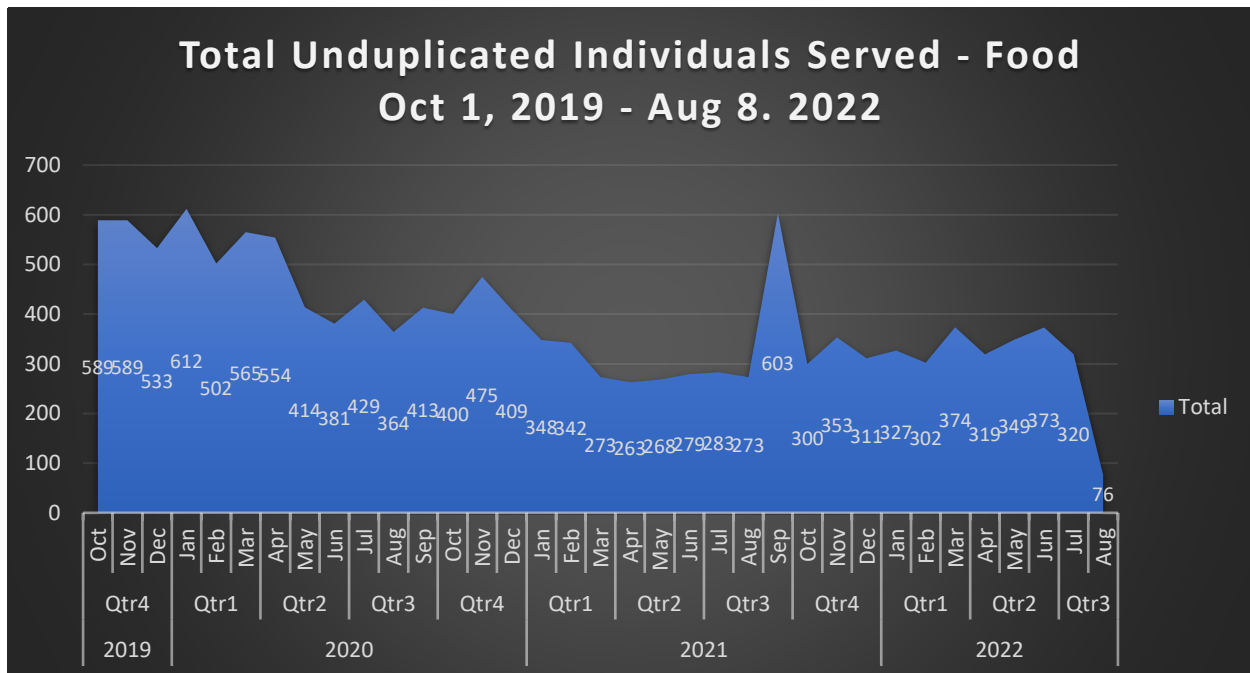
### Quantitative Data

- Economic Data from the Department of Workforce Services
- U.S. Census Bureau
- Surveys
- Program Tracking Materials
- Utah Department of Health
- Demographic Information
- Age
- Income
- 2021 Point in Time Count

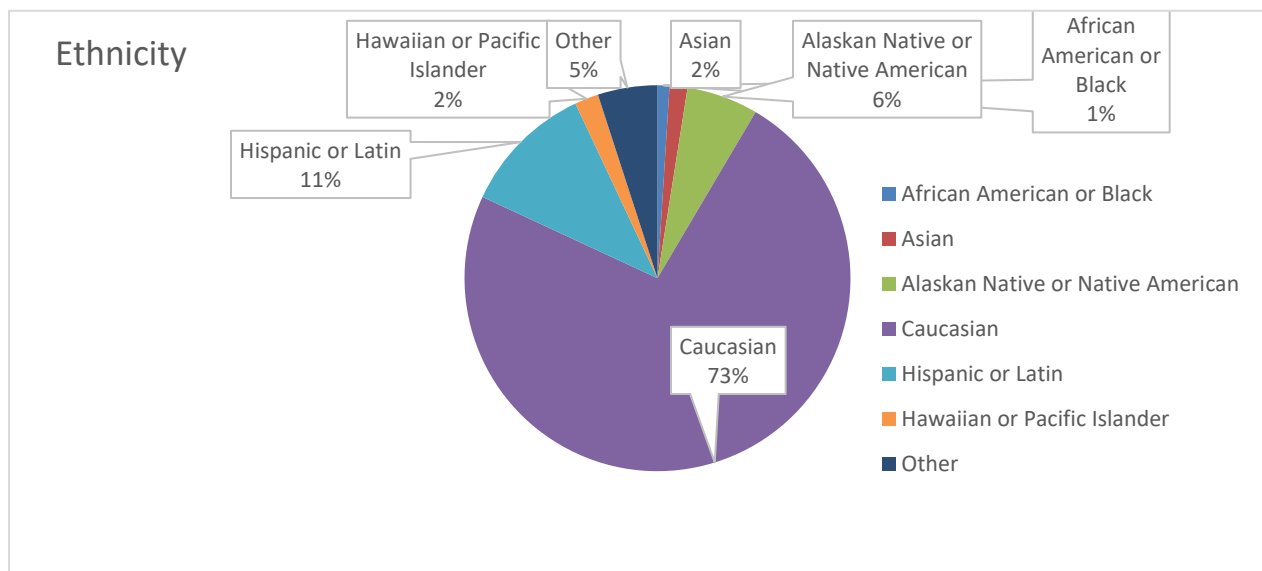
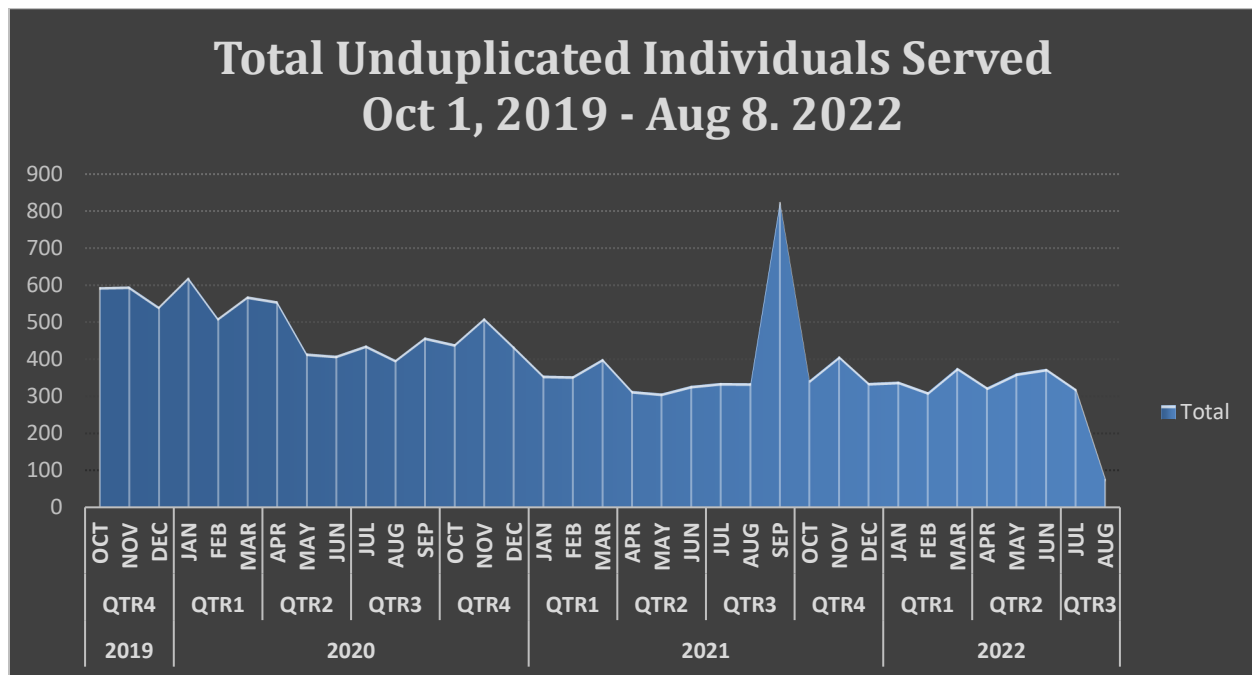
## Qualitative Data

- Focus groups
- Interviews with community leaders
- Interviews with other stakeholders including Elected Officials, Faith Based Representatives, Individuals from the Private and Public Sector, Education
- Representatives, Low-Income clients of SEUALG, and Low-Income community members.
- Community Forums
- Open Ended Survey Questions
- Gender
- Elected Officials
- Faith Based Representatives

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments Food Distribution – Total Unduplicated Individuals Served by Quarter from October 2019 – August 2022



Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments – Total Unduplicated Individuals Served by Quarter from October 2019 – August 2022



Data from Community Needs Assessment Surveys

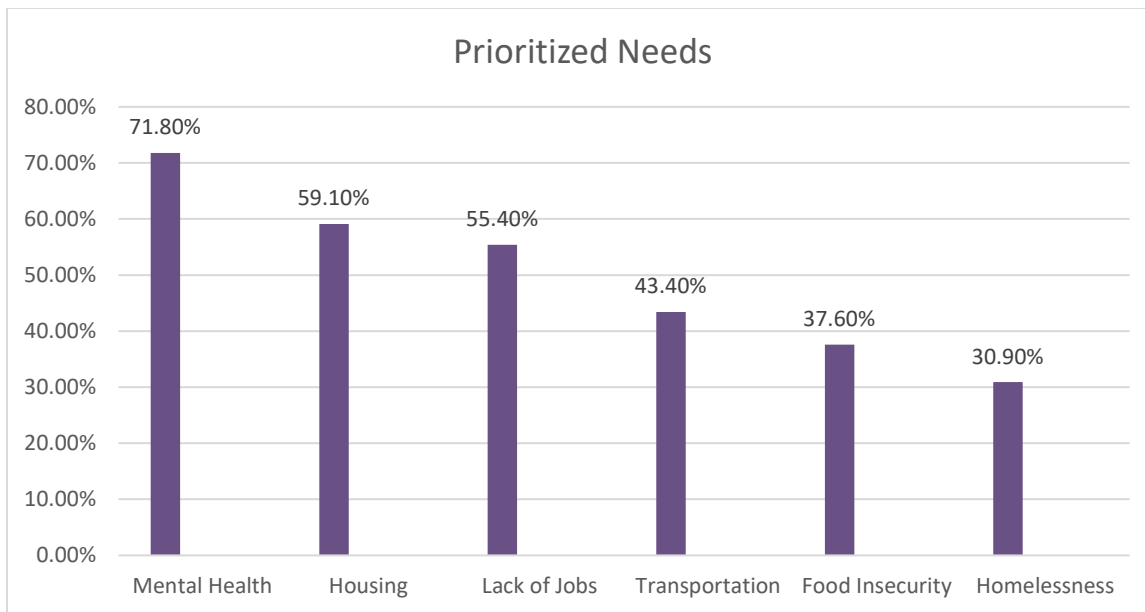
## Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments Mission Statement

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments Community Services mission statement: To provide access and opportunity to those in need to become increasingly self-sufficient and independent through innovative, comprehensive services, and collaborative efforts with local, State, and federal partnerships.

From our Community Needs Assessment analysis indicates the priority issues identified from Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan County are:

- Mental Health
- Housing
- Lack of Jobs that Pay Self Sufficient Wages
- Transportation
- Food Insecurity
- Homelessness

The priority issues identified will be based on information gathered during the Community Needs Assessment and actual program services will be based on available funding, resources, and the coordination of various program requirements.



These were the six top prioritized needs that were identified from surveys, focus groups, personal interviews, and coalition meetings.



## Issue Area (I) Mental Health / Addiction

### Mental Health / Addiction

Through the data gathering methods from surveys, focus groups, personal interviews, and coalition meetings that mental health services are the number one identified need in our region. More than 70% of respondents stated that mental health services are a high priority in our region. Low-income individuals rarely have insurance and Medicaid provides limited access to mental health services. Because of the small population in this district and to ensure compliance with HIPAA and/or CFR 42, county level data on mental health and substance abuse is challenging to obtain. However, information shared by program clients indicates that up to 80% of individuals in these low-income households experience problems with mental health and substance abuse. In general, substance abuse is a severe issue in southeast Utah. Among Utah's local health districts, Southeast Utah had significantly higher prescription opioid death rates compared to the rest of the state. There are several private mental health counseling businesses in each county; however, there are only two public/non-profit mental health agencies in the region. Four Corners Behavioral Health serves Carbon, Emery, and Grand Counties, while San Juan Counseling service San Juan County, including the reservation areas.

Fatal overdose rates in the Southeast Utah Health District have been some of the highest in the state, even sometimes doubling the rate of the Salt Lake County area.

- Utah Health Departments Opioid Dashboard

Most low-income individuals have limited medical insurance resources and/or are unable to cover cost from their income, making it difficult or impossible to obtain adequate treatment services to truly address their problems. Public mental health agencies rely on Medicaid payments to cover the cost of these services, but Medicaid limits many of these excessive costs and often treatment must end before a successful outcome is achieved. Adequate funding is important for mental health agencies so that more counselors can provide comprehensive treatment. Service providers in the region have developed efficient partnering strategies to help clients obtain as many treatment options that are available.



## Carbon and Emery Counties

Carbon and Emery Counties lead the state in opioid overdose deaths. They are located in rural southeast Utah and are significantly underserved areas (USDA). Both Carbon and Emery Counties residents are living in poverty. Given the high poverty and rural index rates in these counties, food insecurity is also an issue in these communities with approximately 14 to 15 percent of people not having reliable access to food (Gundersen, Satoh, Dewey, Kato & Engelhard, 2015). Additionally, disability status is higher in Carbon (14.6%) and Emery (15.3%) for individuals aged 18 to 64 years than the state (8.5%) and national (12.5%) rate, indicating increased mobility issues and mental health difficulties (USDA, 2018).

	Opioid Overdose Rate	Population	High School Graduation Rate	Bachelor's Degree Attainment	Median Household Income	Unemployment Rate <sup>a</sup>	Poverty Rate
Carbon	<b>62.2</b>	20,463	90.8%	16.4%	\$50,278	7.2%	<b>14.4%</b>
Emery	<b>46.0</b>	10,012	93.9%	14.7%	\$52,055	6.0%	<b>12.5%</b>
Utah	23.0	3,205,958	92.0%	33.3%	\$68,374	8.5%	9.0%
United States	18.3	328,239,523	87.7%	31.5%	\$60,293	13.3%	11.8%

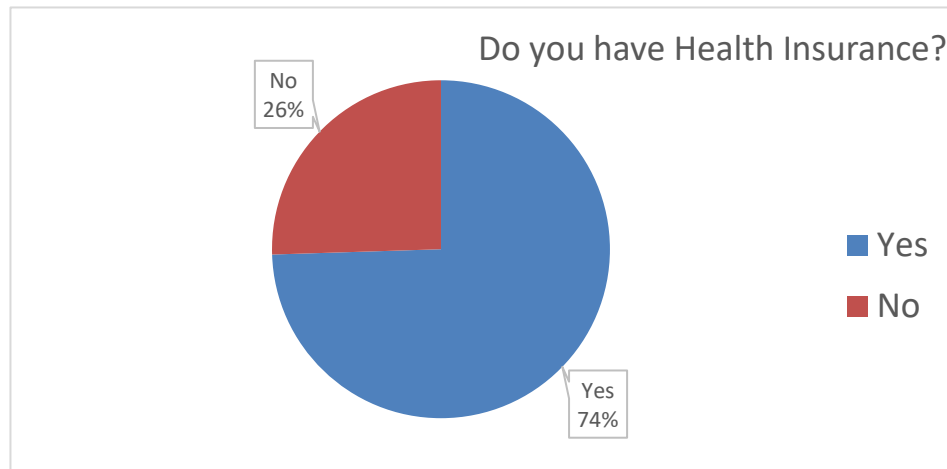
*Bolded numbers are numbers higher than the state/national average. Data for opioid overdose rates from USDA (n.d.), for demographic statistics from U.S. Census Bureau (2019), and for unemployment rate from U.S. Bureau of Statistics (2020).*

*<sup>a</sup>Unemployment rate as of May 2020.*

- Data from HEART Health, Extension: Advocacy, Research, & Teaching Annual Report 2019-2020

Discussions from community forums, personal interviews, focus groups, and coalition meetings identified the following barriers to accessing mental health services:

- Lack of resources for mental health treatment
- No walk-in appointments for crisis
- Cost of treatment is too expensive
- Transportation barriers for individuals seeking services
- Long distance to travel for services
- Service providers do not accept Medicaid
- No Insurance
- Employer's do not offer health benefits
- Doctor's providing treatment do not accept Medicaid.
- Individuals are not aware of options for mental health services
- Difficulty in accessing mental health services due to the increased demand from the pandemic



Data from Community Needs Assessment Surveys

## Partners

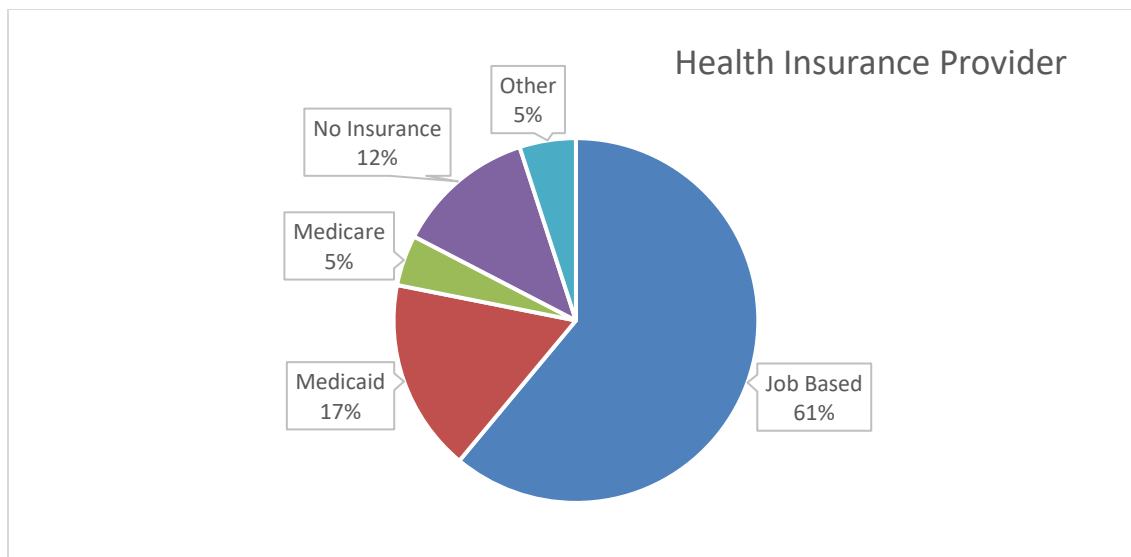
Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments partners with Carbon and Emery Opioid Coalition, Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness, Life Balance Recovery, Positive Pathways, San Juan Counseling, Four Corners Behavioral Health, StepOne Services at Castleview Hospital, and Southeast Utah Health Department to assist individuals with mental health services.

## Gaps in Services

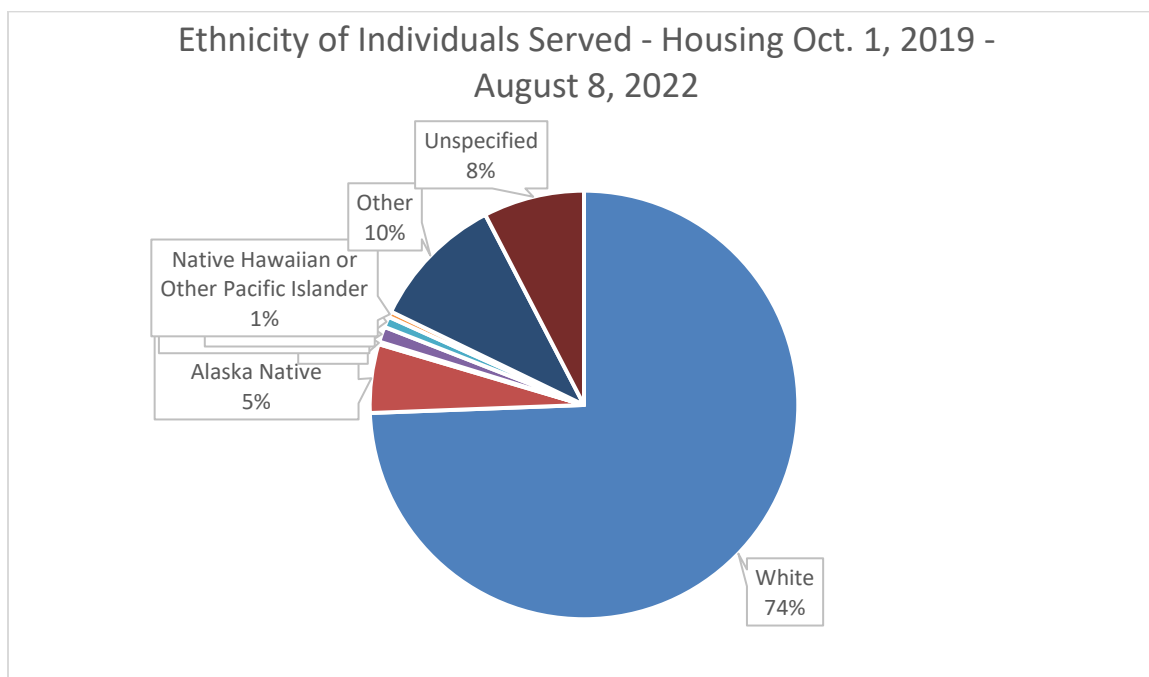
Comprehensive mental health/addiction treatment services are not affordable. Many low-income individuals, who do have jobs, do not have employer provided health insurance and are not eligible for Medicaid. Medicaid benefits are not comprehensive in providing mental health services and addiction recovery services. Local public mental health districts have very few funds to provide extensive services to people who cannot pay out of pocket and do not have insurance coverage. From our data gathering methods it was determined that 26% of respondents do not have health insurance, and 22% of respondents health insurance is from Medicaid or Medicare.

## Root Causes of Poverty in Mental Health

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments program managers, and staff determined the root causes of poverty in mental health from focus groups, personal interviews, surveys, and coalition meetings. It was identified that the root causes of poverty in mental health are lack of health insurance, substance abuse, jobs that do not provide benefits, limited benefits for treatment if individual is on Medicaid, and lack of resources in our communities. Individuals that have insurance stated that they would often avoid needed medical care because they are unable to afford it. With limited access to services, individuals employment opportunities decrease thus keeping individuals and households in poverty. Data to identify the root causes of poverty were analyzed and identified by SEUALG Program Managers and Staff from surveys, focus groups, personal interviews, and coalition meetings.



Data from Community Needs Assessment Surveys



Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments – Ethnicity of Unduplicated Individuals Served Housing – October 1, 2019 – August 8, 2022. Data pulled from CAP60 report.

## Issues Area (II) Housing

Through the data gathering methods from surveys, focus groups, personal interviews, and coalition meetings that 26% of respondents do not have health insurance, and lack of affordable and accessible housing affects many individuals attempting to exit poverty. Data from surveys, focus groups, and personal interviews demonstrated that the rising housing costs and lack of accessible housing in our rural region have skyrocketed leaving many individuals and households either living with family, friends, doubling up with other families, or are at risk of homelessness. Many clients at Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments are currently relying on family and friends to provide housing due to the housing shortage and rising costs of housing. Almost 60% of respondents stated that lack of affordable housing was the second largest barrier in our rural region. Housing instability can contribute to additional problems including worsened physical and mental health, stress levels, relationships, and homelessness. Because southeastern Utah is a rural/remote region, multi-family rental housing is scarce. Most of the multi-family rental housing in Grand County has been developed in, but much of it quickly converted to tourist room sales units and nightly rentals. Because housing development is limited in this district much of the existing housing units are over 30yrs old and are in less than acceptable condition. Finally, many of the units affordable to very low-income individuals are mobile homes/trailers that are in very dilapidated condition and are not eligible for rehabilitation or rental payment subsidies with either HUD or USDA-Rural Development Funds.

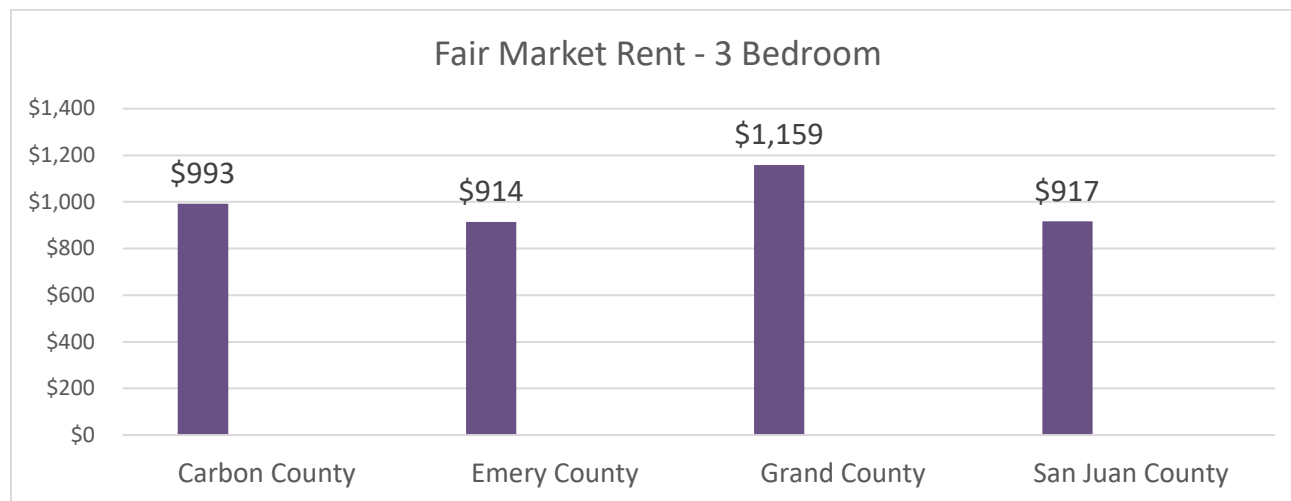
Discussions from community forums, personal interviews, focus groups, and coalition meetings identified the following barriers to accessing safe and affordable housing:

- Lack of housing stock
- Rising housing costs
- Denied housing due to past criminal conviction
- Short housing supply drives costs up
- Many affordable units are in dilapidated condition
- Mobile homes are old and are utilities can cost as much or more than rent in these homes
- Renters are paying more than 30 percent of their income for housing
- To obtain affordable housing you must live a great distance from employment, schools, and shopping
- Accessible housing for disabled individuals

From personal interviews and focus groups it was stated that the Fair Market Rent is skewed as rent for example in Grand County is typically up to \$1,700 - \$2,000 for a three-bedroom apartment. Many Due to the rising housing demands, many property owners are increasing rent substantially and making it challenging for individuals and households to afford rental costs.

## Gaps in Services

Outside of the main city areas in Carbon, Grand, and San Juan counties, housing is more affordable but with limited housing stock individuals and households struggle in obtaining affordable housing.



-Data taken from [www.huduset.gov](http://www.huduset.gov)

Housing within the main cities where the jobs are primarily located in, housing is not always affordable. In Grand County, tourism drives many affordable housing units to be transformed to nightly rentals and housing costs continue to rise. Housing costs in Grand County are extremely high compared to other resort communities in Utah. Housing that meets minimum habitability standards is also an issue for low-income households. Currently 33% of households in our rural region who rent are rent overburdened meaning that over 35% of families monthly income goes towards rent.

In 2022, a full-time worker needs to earn an hourly wage of \$25.82 on average to afford a modest, two-bedroom rental home and \$21.25 to afford a modest, one-bedroom rental home. As the country faces record rent increases and rising evictions, it is more important than ever to make meaningful and long-lasting structural changes to ensure renters with the lowest incomes have stable and affordable homes.

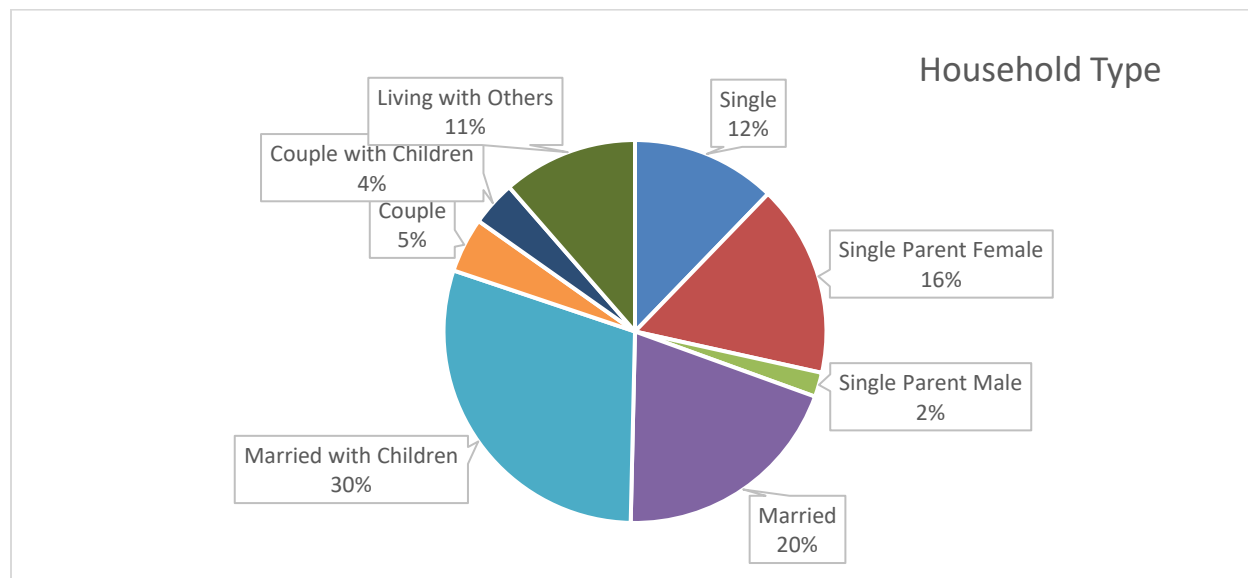
-Data from National Low Income Housing Coalition

## Partnerships

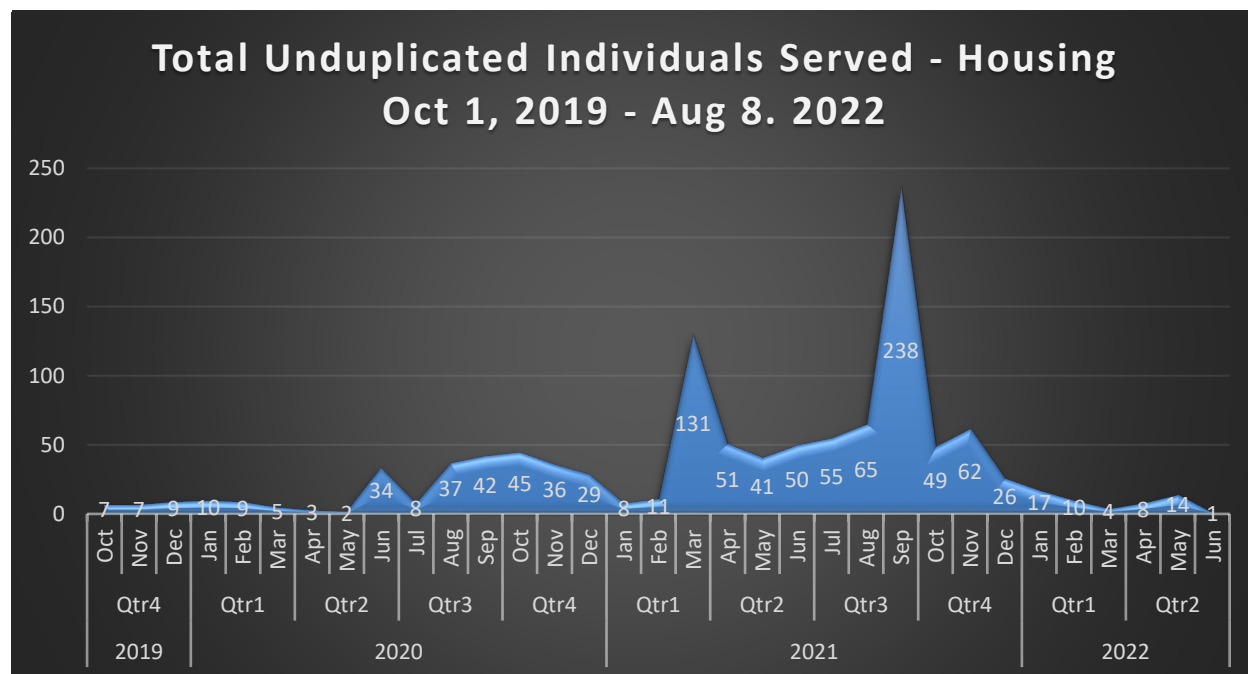
Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments continues to provide case management, tenant landlord mediation, and housing/homeless services through our partnerships with Department of Workforce Services Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Housing Program,

Unified Funding, Emergency Rental Assistance, Emergency Solutions CARES Act, Community Services Block Grant CARES Act, Self Help Housing Rehabilitation, and Ground Up Construction to assist in keeping individuals and households stably housed.

From the Community Needs Assessment surveys, it shows that 18% of respondents are Single Parent Female. This is also the group that has the lowest monthly income.



Data from Community Needs Assessment Surveys



Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments – Total Unduplicated Individuals Served – Housing by Quarter from October 2019 – August 2022. Data was pulled from CAP60 report.

### **Root Causes of Poverty in Housing**

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments program managers, and staff determined the root causes of poverty in housing from focus groups, personal interviews, surveys, and coalition meetings. It was identified that lack of affordable housing in our region is a barrier to exiting poverty. Much of the affordable housing in our region does not meet minimal habitation standards, and families are waiting several years to get accepted into low-income housing. Other root causes of poverty identified in housing were lack of sustainable wages to afford housing, mismanagement of income, poor mental health, substance abuse, and loss of jobs or reduced hours from the pandemic.

### **Issue Area (III) Lack of Self-Sufficient Jobs**

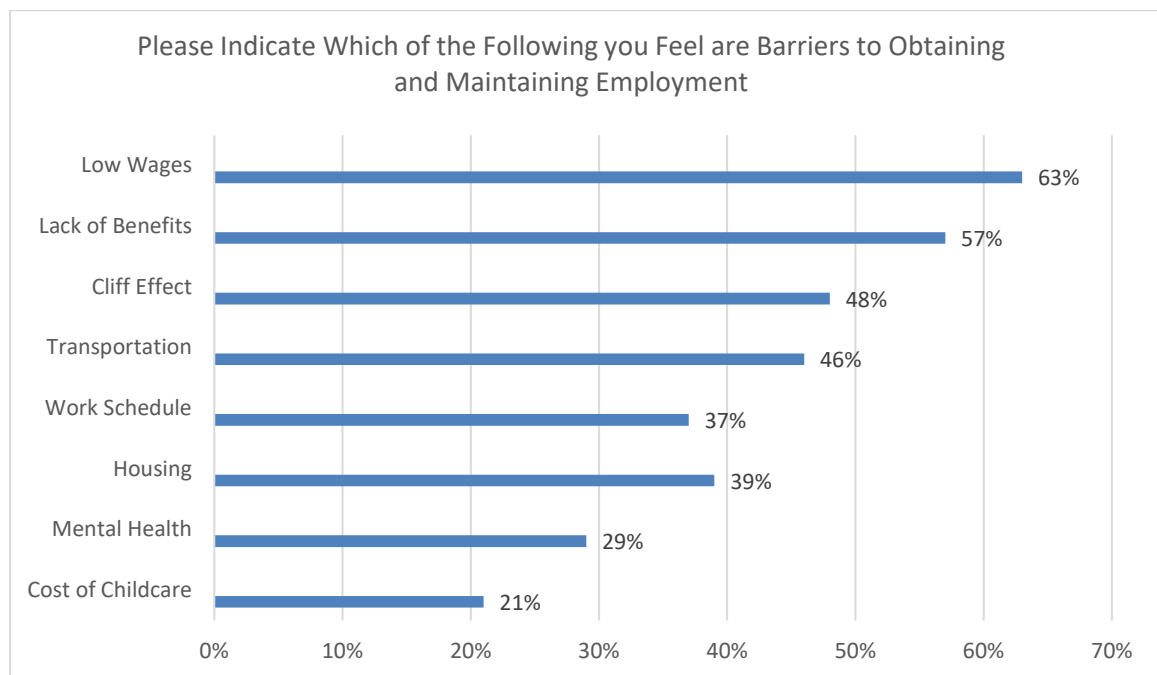
It was identified in the data gathering methods from surveys, focus groups, personal interviews, and coalition meetings that lack of jobs that pay self-sufficient wages affects many individuals attempting to exit poverty. Lack of jobs affects many people attempting to exit poverty and keeps families living in intergenerational poverty. Many individuals in our region are employed in low-paying jobs and to obtain better jobs they must compete with a highly skilled or educated workforce. Individuals without employable skills are working low wage or several part-time jobs. Employment that provides sufficient income is essential for individuals and families to achieve financial stability. Self-sufficient jobs help families move out of poverty, build savings for emergencies, and reduces dependence upon government assistance. Major employers such as mining companies, gas and oil extraction companies, power plants, trucking and warehouse companies and secondary businesses such as large retails concerns, restaurants, etc. have gone out of business and laid off all their employees in three of the region's four counties. Grand County has shown an increase in job creation, however, most of that increase has been in the low paying tourism/travel/services sectors. The wages in these jobs do not pay family sustaining wages, rarely have benefits, and are often seasonal and/or part-time. Without good jobs, including benefits, people cannot achieve self-sufficiency. With lack of jobs continuing to be a prioritization, this ties in closely with Intergenerational Poverty. With lack of high paying jobs with benefits it makes it exceedingly difficult for families to reach self-sufficiency.

Discussions from community forums, personal interviews, focus groups, and coalition meetings identified the following barriers to accessing jobs that pay self-sufficient wages:

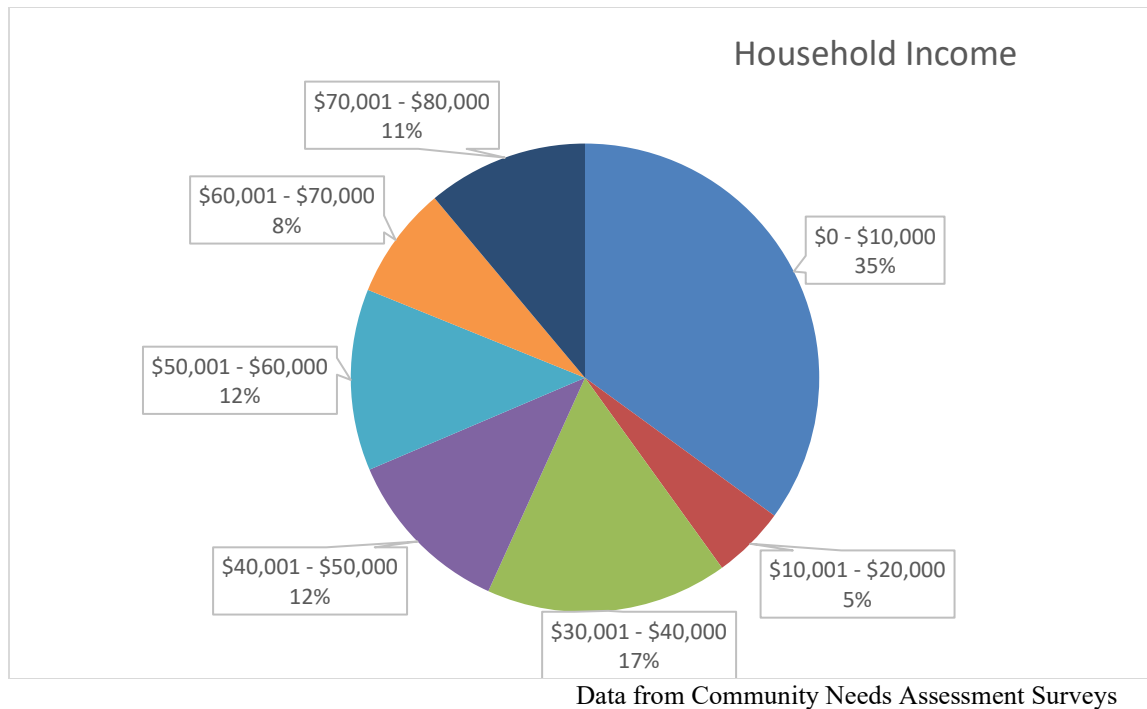
- Many jobs in our community that pay higher wages require an education or experience
- Lack of transportation to obtain and maintain employment
- Lack of training opportunities
- Criminal history
- Lack of economic opportunities

- Lack of job growth
- Mental Health
- Lack of affordable housing
- Limited training for higher wage jobs
- Lack of marketable skills
- Drug and alcohol addiction
- Homelessness
- Cliff Effect
- Excessive cost of childcare
- Lack of self-esteem

From personal interviews, low-income clients, non-clients, and community members of Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments listed the following barriers to obtaining and maintaining employment.





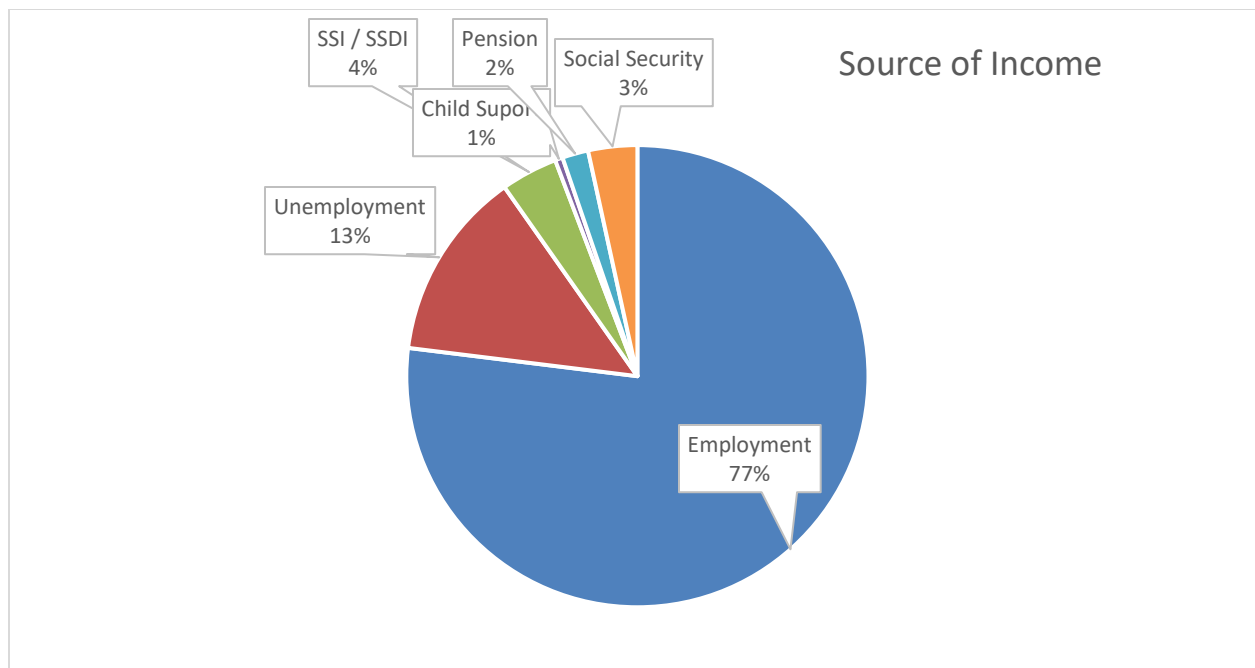


Data from surveys showed that 52% of respondents income was at or below \$30,000. The average household size is three from this survey putting household income at slightly above 125 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

### Gaps in Services

From focus groups, public forums, client surveys, coalition meetings, and interviews gaps for low-income individuals were:

Access to training, education, soft skills, and social capital. Workable solutions included: remote work, address Cliff Effects, more training and resources for people who need it, provide ongoing support and assistance with obtaining employment. With limited jobs in our rural counties that do not provide either a self-sufficient wage and or benefits, it is not only a gap but also families living in poverty have a challenging time in moving out of poverty. Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments will continue to seek funding and resource to expand our capacity, increase outreach to our programs, continue providing Financial Literacy classes, and provide case management to connect individuals to customized services, to break the cycle of poverty.



Data from Community Needs Assessment Surveys

Seventy one percent of survey respondent's income was from employment. When looking at household type, single females with children had the lowest income.

## Partnerships

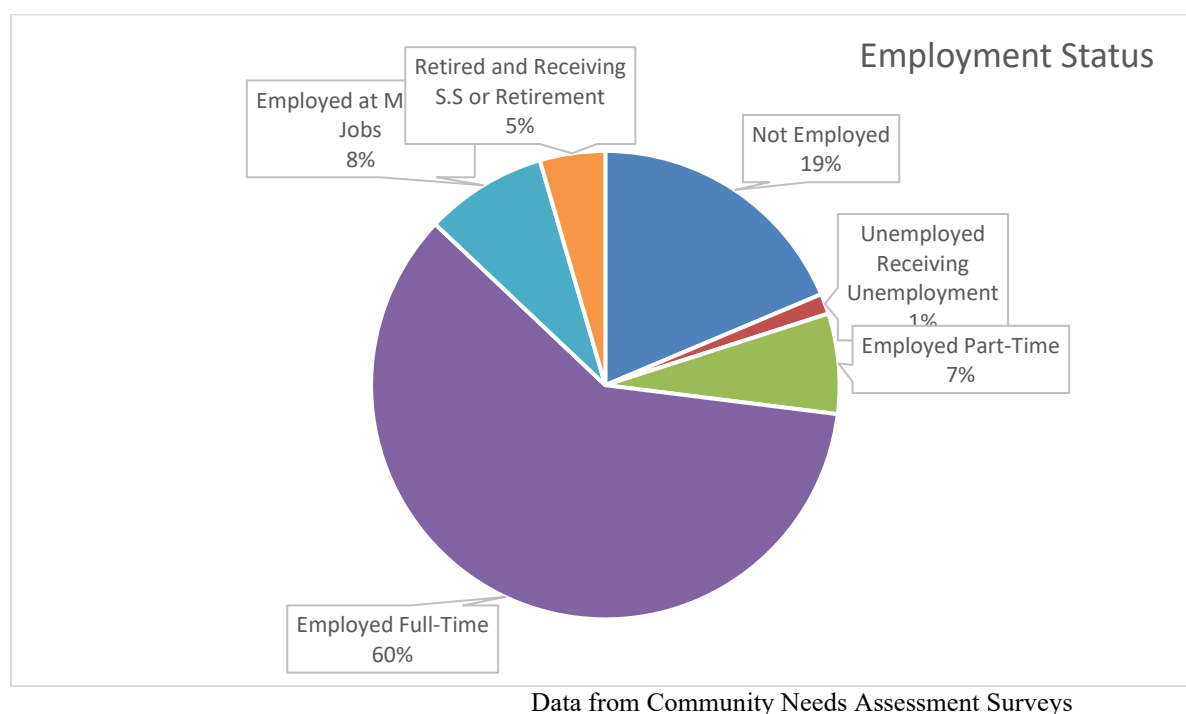
Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments continues to partner with Department of Workforce Services, Circles USA, Poverty Reduction Lab, Consumer Protection Financial Bureau, Southeastern Utah Economic Development District, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Rural Online Initiative, Business and Technical Assistance Center, Easter Seals, Desert Industries, Utah State University Eastern, and many Local Businesses in our Region to individuals in obtaining jobs that pay self-sufficient wages.

Trying to get out of poverty without learning the hidden rules of economic class, support from Circles staff, Allies, and volunteers is like climbing a brick wall with no hands.

-Circles Leader Carbon County

## Root Causes of Poverty / Lack of Self-Sufficient Jobs

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments program managers, and staff determined the root causes of poverty in lack of self-sufficient jobs from focus groups, personal interviews, surveys, and coalition meetings. It was identified that lack of jobs, low wages, lack of education and or training, lack of resources, poor financial literacy skills, criminal record, poor mental health, lack of transportation, lack of community awareness of poverty issues, and intergenerational poverty. These are significant causes of poverty and make it challenging for individuals to exit poverty. Data to identify the root causes of poverty were analyzed and identified by SEUALG Program Managers and Staff from surveys, focus groups, personal interviews, and coalition meetings.



## Issue Area IV Transportation

### Transportation

It was identified in the data gathering methods from surveys, focus groups, personal interviews, and coalition meetings that

lack of transportation affects many individuals attempting to exit poverty. There are no public transportation systems in our rural region. Low-income individuals who cannot afford a vehicle are limited in their ability to access jobs, education, shopping, and medical services. Low-income individuals who cannot afford private vehicles and insurance are at a disadvantage in obtaining employment, accessing shopping, medical care, education, and mental health services. Without public transportation low-income individuals must live close to their place of employment and other services, which usually increases their housing costs.

Without transportation people cannot even meet their basic needs such as healthcare, food, and basic supplies. If I do not have a friend or family member to take me to my appointments or shopping, I simply cannot go.

- Client of Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments is working on a Transit Feasibility Study with Via Mobility, LLC. The overall goals of the Carbon, Emery, and San Juan Transit Study are:

1. Provide an overview of existing passenger transportation services in rural areas and ways these models may be utilized in starting a new rural transit system.
2. Define passenger transportation “need” and identify the most pressing needs in the region.
3. Develop a vision and strategies for meeting those passenger transportation needs with the SEUALG leadership committee.
4. Develop public transportation routes which include types fixed, demand response, flex routes, stops, bus schedule, and locations, for which communities will benefit from the respective types.
5. Identify capital and operating costs for each service scenario.
6. Outline specific funding strategies both governmental and philanthropic to implement each transit service scenario identified.
7. Clarify SEUALG’s role in supporting and meeting regional transportation needs now and into the future.
8. Propose how advancements in existing and future transportation technologies can impact the provision of transportation services within and to/from rural communities.
9. Develop documentation and language necessary for the creation and implementation of a public transportation provider in southeast Utah.

## Poverty Analysis

Nearly one fifth of the study area residents are below the poverty line – about twice as many as in the State of Utah. San Juan County’s poverty rate is particularly high, with one in four residents living in poverty.

Area	People in Poverty	Percent of Total Population
Carbon	3,500	17%
Emery	1,200	12%
Grand	900	9%
San Juan	3,800	25%
Study Area	8,500	18%
Rural Utah*	88,000	12%
State of Utah	303,000	10%

### Existing Transit Services – SEUALG Transit Feasibility Study

<b>Non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT)</b> Providers, which provide trips to/from medical appointments for Medicaid eligible individuals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Logisticare</li> <li>Utah Navajo Health Systems</li> <li>Non-Emergency Medical Transportation</li> </ul>	<b>Councils on Aging</b> , which provides demand-response and point-deviation service to senior centers, shopping, and some NEMT trips: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>San Juan County</li> <li>Council on Aging</li> </ul>	<b>Public Transit providers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Navajo Transportation System, the only public transit service in the Study Area.</li> </ul>	<b>Commercial Transportation Options:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amtrak</li> <li>Greyhound</li> <li>Moab Luxury Coach</li> </ul>
<b>Residential Senior/Nursing Homes</b> , which provide transportation services for their clients: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good Life Senior Living</li> <li>Canyonlands Care Center</li> <li>Emery County Nursing Home</li> <li>Heirloom Inn</li> <li>Parkdale Care Center</li> </ul>	<b>Nonprofits</b> , which provide transportation services for the communities they are established to serve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four Corners Community Behavioral Health</li> <li>Active Re-Entry</li> <li>DAV (Disabled Veterans)</li> </ul>	<b>Senior Centers</b> , which often provide demand - response trips for daily needs, recreation, and social trips. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carbon County Senior Center</li> <li>Emery County Senior Citizens Center</li> <li>Grand Senior Citizens Center</li> <li>Parkdale Care Center Price</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pinnacle Care Center</li> </ul>	Volunteer Driver Network		
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Discussions from community forums, personal interviews, focus groups, and coalition meetings identified the following barriers to transportation:

- Lack of public transportation
- Lack of resources
- Cost of fuel
- Cost to own a vehicle
- Living outside of city limits
- High costs of automotive insurance
- High costs of housing

### **Gaps in Services**

There are specialized programs to provide transportation for medical services. The senior citizen programs in each county provide limited transportation services to the senior centers and medical services. There is no local public transportation system anywhere in our region. Low-income individuals who cannot afford a vehicle are limited in their ability to access jobs, education, shopping, and medical services.

### **Partnerships**

There is no public transportation in Southeastern Utah. There are limited specialized transportation services for medical care, people with disabilities, and senior citizens. The region's service provider agencies coordinate with each other to efficiently use the limited resources and collaborate on ways to increase our community's limited transportation. Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments is working on a Transit Feasibility Study and coordinating with National Association of Development Organizations, Utah Department of Transportation, Western Transportation Institute, Utah Urban Rural Specialized Transportation Association, VIA Mobility, Carbon and Emery Senior Centers, Active Re-Entry, Four Corners Behavioral Health, Grand County Senior Center, Canyonlands Care Center, Navajo Transit System, and San Juan County Area Aging.

### **Root Causes of Poverty in Transportation**

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments program managers, and staff determined the root causes of poverty in transportation from focus groups, personal interviews, surveys, and coalition meetings. It was identified that lack of transportation makes it difficult to obtain and maintain employment, access shopping and schooling, medical appointments, and needed services. Lack of public transportation makes it challenging for individuals and households to

meet employment, medical, and nutritional needs. Lack of transportation was identified as a barrier to exiting poverty. Data to identify the root causes of poverty were analyzed and identified by SEUALG Program Managers and Staff from surveys, focus groups, personal interviews, and coalition meetings.

## Issue Area (V) Food Insecurity

It was identified in the data gathering methods from surveys, focus groups, personal interviews, and coalition meetings that food insecurity affects many individuals attempting to exit poverty. Access to nutritional foods continues to be an issue for many households in our rural region. SSI and Social Security recipients live on less than those in the state but face higher food costs due to the distance required to access food, fewer grocery stores, resources, and fewer co-op or bulk-food purchasing options. In San Juan County, over 73% of K-12 students are eligible for free or reduced school lunch – a strong indication that entire families face food insecurity. Food insecurity disproportionately impact children, female single parent households, seniors, people with disabilities, and Indigenous individuals. The consequences of this food insecurity are alarming. Food insecurity exacerbates many physical and mental health issues, including diabetes, hypertension, depression and poorer general health and well-being. At the same time, exclusion from essential services leads to higher rates of homelessness, discrimination, and loss of support systems.

The hardest decision that I must make daily is deciding if I should pay my rent, utility bills or purchase food for my family. There is never enough to pay for everything, so often I choose to pay rent so my family will have a place to live, and we will skimp on food and go without meals.

- Client of Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments

Discussions from community forums, personal interviews, focus groups, and coalition meetings identified the following barriers to food insecurity:

- Insufficient income to cover food costs
- High food costs
- Lack of transportation to grocery stores
- Lack of knowledge on available nutrition programs
- Lack of food resources – grocery stores in rural regions
- Distance to grocery stores
- COVID -19

- Accessing food resources difficult due to social distancing requirements
- Decreased food supply during pandemic
- Socio-cultural factors
- Seniors receiving minimal SNAP benefits

## Gaps in Services

Our rural region lacks bulk food stores and has limited sources for purchasing food. San Juan County covers 7,933 mi<sup>2</sup> and the population is approximately 15,000. Many individuals and households live several hours from food sources, and the lack of transportation makes it difficult for individuals to travel the distances to grocery stores, and food banks. With the rising housing and rental costs, purchasing healthy foods and adequate food is challenging for low-income individuals.

Food insecurity disproportionately impacts children, female single parent households, seniors, people with disabilities, and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities (BIPOC). In the 2020 report, food insecurity in the following groups was noted as being significantly higher than the national average:

- All households with children (14.8 percent)
- Households with children under age 6 (15.3 percent)
- Households with children headed by a single woman (27.7 percent) or a single man (16.3 percent)
- Households with Black, non-Hispanic (21.7 percent) and Hispanic (17.2 percent) household reference persons
- Households with incomes below 185 percent of the poverty threshold (28.6 percent)

- [Report to the Utah State Legislature Food Security Task Force October 2021](#)

## Partnerships

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments partners with Department of Workforce Services, Community Garden, County Commissioners, State Community Services Office, Emergency Food Assistance, CSBG Discretionary Funding, Utah Food Bank, Utahns Against Hunger, Trinity Food Pantry, San Juan Foundation, Carbon, Emery, and Grand food banks, TEFAP, USDA Commodity Distribution, SNAP, Feeding America, Southeast Utah Health Department, Community Volunteers, Meals on Wheels, Senior Centers, Utah State University Eastern, Desert Industries, and Easter Seals.



## Root Causes of Poverty in Food Insecurity

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments program managers, and staff determined the root causes of poverty in food insecurity from focus groups, personal interviews, surveys, and coalition meetings. It was identified that households with limited income, family instability, low educational attainment, lack of knowledge on programs such as SNAP, WIC, lack of knowledge on food bank resources, transportation, lack of bulk food options, distance required to obtain food, the rising costs of food, and unavailability of food from the pandemic is a barrier and keeps families in poverty. Data to identify the root causes of poverty were analyzed and identified by SEUALG Program Managers and Staff from surveys, focus groups, personal interviews, and coalition meetings.

## Issue Area (VI) Homelessness

It was identified in the data gathering methods from surveys, focus groups, personal interviews, and coalition meetings homelessness affects many individuals attempting to exit poverty. Without temporary shelter and limited funding for homeless services, homeless individuals/families struggle in reaching self-sufficiency. The homeless population living in the Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan Counties is vastly underserved. The services offered to homeless individuals are limited and the criteria exclude a significant portion of the current homeless population. With the limited programs that are available for homeless individuals, there is a large portion of this population that is left unserved. Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan County lack transitional housing and other services to provide temporary shelter for individuals to get back on their feet. Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments receives Unified Funding which assists homeless individuals with first month's rent, deposit, and utility assistance. With the growing number of homeless in Carbon, Emery, and Grand County funding does not cover all the clients requesting assistance to pay for motel or food vouchers, or essential items.

	Persons				Average LOT Homeless (bed nights)					Median LOT Homeless (bed nights)				
	FFY18	FFY19	FFY20	FFY21	FFY18	FFY19	FFY20	FFY21	FFY20-21 Diff.	FFY18	FFY19	FFY20	FFY21	FFY20-21 Diff.
1.1 Persons in ES	N/A	5	13	56	N/A	9.6	5.77	14.52	8.75	N/A	4	5	14	9
1.2 Persons in ES and TH	N/A	5	13	56	N/A	9.6	5.77	14.52	8.75	N/A	4	5	14	9

Data from the Annual Data Report on Homelessness demonstrates the increase in the median homeless bed nights from FFY18 – FFY21. During 2022 with the low housing stock in our region these numbers have continued to increase significantly. Many of the homeless clients that Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments work with are experiencing up to 60 days of homelessness before obtaining shelter.

Discussions from community forums, personal interviews, focus groups, and coalition meetings identified the following barriers to homelessness:

- Lack of transitional housing in our region
- Lack of emergency shelters
- Lack of affordable housing
- Mental Health
- Lack of sober living
- Criminal background
- Living wage jobs
- Lack of services to support homeless individuals
- Lack of sufficient funding sources
- No accessible housing
- High cost of rent
- Lack of transportation to receive services
- Individuals seeking services do not have picture I.D or Social Security card
- Economic mobility

Staff identified that building stronger networks with our partnerships, Elected State Officials, and applying for additional funding to assist homeless clients to help with the growing need in our communities.

### **Gaps In Services**

In Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan counties, there is a lack of services for homeless individuals/families including emergency shelters. With limited resources in our rural counties, partnerships that have funding for homeless services are being exhausted quickly and there are limited solutions in helping homeless individuals/families in reaching self-sufficiency. Homeless rates are increasing, and many individuals are finding hidden areas to pitch a tent even in the extreme winter months. These hidden places are often unsafe and further from needed services. With the rising cost of rent, limited housing stock, and low wages, this also contributes individuals/families to become homeless.

**Access to increased services for homelessness:** In our rural communities there is a lack of transitional housing and limited resources to assist homeless individuals/families. Due to limited resources, homeless individuals/families often have lack of not only shelter but many needed and essential services. Because of the stigma on many homeless individuals, in our rural communities homeless individuals often set up tents in unauthorized areas which are farther from

services. The agency will work toward expanding and applying for additional funding to assist homeless individuals/families and continue to build strong collaborations to Local Homeless Coordinating Committees in our region to increase services.

### **Partnerships Needed to Address Homelessness**

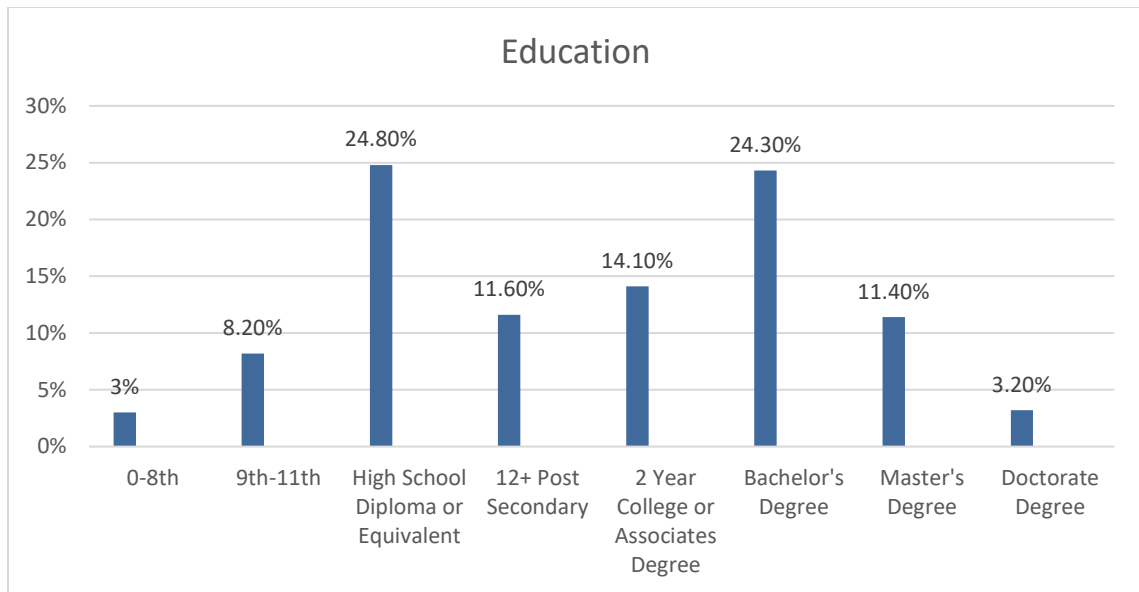
Department of Workforce Services, Elected Officials, Local Homeless Coordinated Committee's, Behavioral Health Agencies, Southeast Utah Health Department, Landlords, Housing Authorities, Grant Funding, Local Churches / Religious Organizations, Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA), New Life Balance, Local Hospitals and Health Clinics, Positive Pathways, StepOne Services, Mental Health Counselors, Project Reality, Balance of State, Law Enforcement, Office of Homeless Services, Food Banks, SNAP, and MAT clinic.

The hardest part about being homeless is not having to find a place to sleep every night, it is the way that people look right through you as though you do not even exist.

-SEUALG homeless individual seeking services

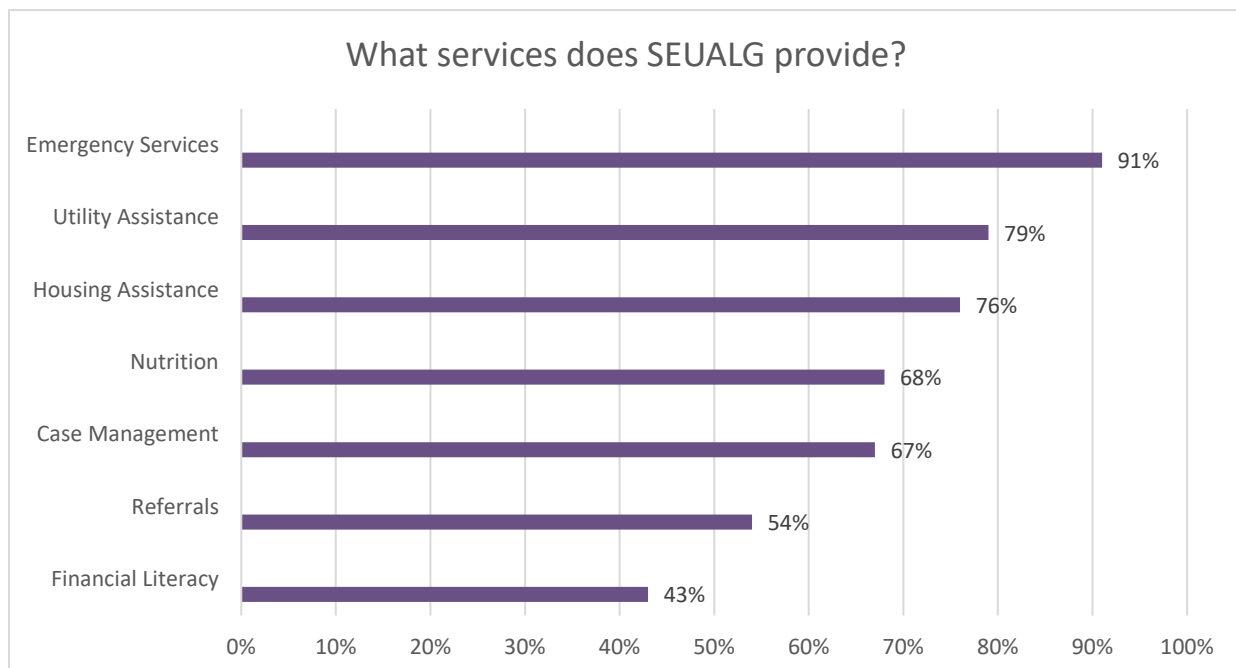
### **Root Causes of Poverty in Homelessness**

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments Program Managers, and staff determined the root causes of poverty in homelessness from focus groups, personal interviews, surveys, and coalition meetings. It was identified that lack of mental health services, lack of emergency shelters, or transitional housing, criminal backgrounds, high cost to access needed services, high housing costs, lack of affordable housing, lack of transportation, economic mobility, substance abuse, lack of social supports to break cycles, were a barrier for homeless individuals. These barriers continue to keep individuals and households in poverty. Data to identify the root causes of poverty were analyzed and identified by SEUALG Program Managers and Staff from surveys, focus groups, personal interviews, and coalition meetings.

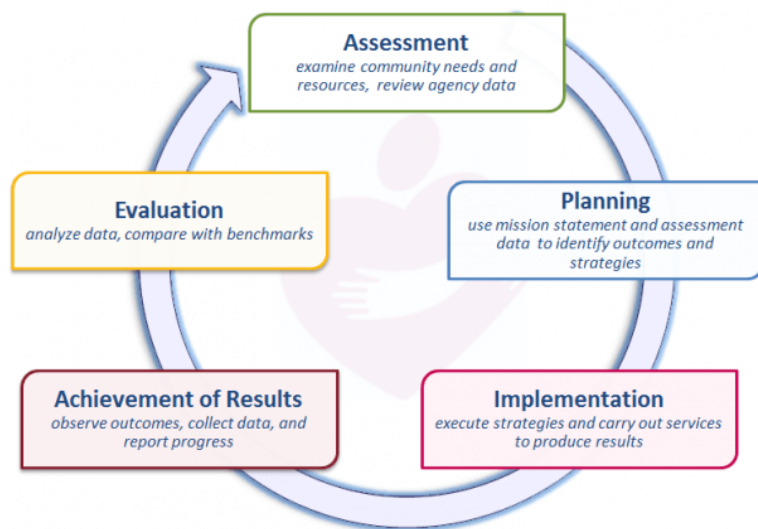


Data from Community Needs Assessment Surveys

Staff asked focus group participants, members of coalition meetings, and clients what services that SEUALG offered. These were the top seven services that were identified.



## Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments Compliance with CSBG Organizational Standards



Standard 3.1: Organization conducted a community assessment and issued a report within the past 3-year period., if no other report exists.

Standard 3.2: As part of the community assessment the organization collects and analyzes both current data specific to poverty and its prevalence related to gender, age, and race/ethnicity for their service area.

Standard 3.3: Analyzes both qualitative and quantitative data on its geographic service area(s) in the community assessment.

Standard 3.4: The community assessment includes key findings on the causes and conditions of poverty and the needs of the communities assessed.

Standard 3.5: The governing board or tripartite board body formally accepts the completed community assessment.

Standard 4.2 The organization's Community Action plan is outcome-based, anti-poverty focused, and ties directly to the community assessment.

Standard 4.3 The organization's Community Action Plan and strategic plan document the continuous use of the full Results oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) cycle.

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments previous Community Needs Assessment was completed in 2019. The results of the 2022 Needs Assessment Survey helps SEUALG provide an accounting of community resources, unmet community needs, gaps in services, causes and conditions of poverty, and serves in part as a self-evaluation of the agency to gauge the effectiveness of their current programs. Mos

## Focus Groups

Focus groups are group discussions guided by a Program Manager that focuses on specific topics to show qualitative data. Sample of Focus Group questions were:

- How do you define poverty? Many of the focus group responses were similar.
  - Not having enough income to meet basic needs
  - When you cannot save for future needs
  - Individuals and families are in survival mode
  - Continual use of public assistance
  - Being below a certain percentage of income
- What are the conditions and causes of poverty in our community?
  - Lack of accessible programs
  - Lack of jobs that pay high wages or provide benefits
  - Lack of education which leads to lower paying jobs
  - Poor financial literacy skills
  - Lack of transportation
- Contributing factors that keep families in poverty?
  - Lack of education
  - Intergenerational poverty, cycle that continues from generation to generation
  - Lack of soft skills
  - Limited knowledge of financial literacy
  - Predatory lenders
  - Mental Health / Substance Abuse
  - Lack of equity in job opportunities
  - High cost of childcare
  - Lack of social supports to break the cycle of poverty
- What can Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments do to assist in eliminating poverty in our communities?
  - Continue providing Financial Literacy classes
  - Engage additional low-income families into programs like Circles
  - Provide soft skills trainings
  - Refer individuals to needed services that our agency does not provide
- What programs, or initiatives have been successful in reducing poverty in our communities?
  - Circles

- TANF Family Housing Assistance
  - Continue providing services to homeless individuals
  - Programs that Department of Workforce Services offer
- What would our community look like without poverty, or reduced poverty?
  - With reduced poverty, families would engage more in community activities
  - Seeing individuals and families not having to struggle would be amazing
  - Less homeless individuals
  - Reduced predatory lending
  - Households would have enough money and resources to cover basic needs

# SOUTHEASTERN UTAH ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

## COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

### Organizations Mission

Community Services of Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments Mission Statement:

To provide access and opportunity to those in need to become increasingly self-sufficient and independent through innovative, comprehensive services, and collaborative efforts with local, State, and federal partnerships.

### Vision Statement

Community and collaborative action to assist people with working towards and achieving self-sufficient goals set by those in need.

### Prioritized Issues

#### ISSUES AREAS

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#### **Mental Health**

It was identified that mental health services is a high priority. This issue affects many people attempting to exit poverty. Almost 80% of respondents stated that Mental Health services were a high priority in our region. Low-income individuals rarely have insurance and



Medicaid provides very limited services for mental health. Data from surveys, focus groups, interviews, and coalition meetings identified that mental health/ addiction was the biggest barrier in our communities.

### **Lack of Affordable Housing**

Housing prices throughout the State are seeing unprecedented increases during the past two years. In our rural region there is a lack of affordable and accessible housing, and it affects many people attempting to exit poverty. Housing that is affordable is often located far distances from businesses, employers, and services. Affordable housing is a high priority in our region. It was identified that the lack of affordable housing was the second biggest barrier.

### **Lack of Jobs that Pay Self-Sufficient Wages**

It was identified in the data gathering methods from surveys, focus groups, interviews, and coalition meetings that lack of jobs that pay self-sufficient wages affects many individuals attempting to exit poverty. Data identified that without jobs that pay self-sufficient wages and benefits keeps families living in poverty and continues the cycle of inter-generational poverty. Lack of jobs that pay self-sufficient wages was the third largest barrier.

### **Lack of Transportation**

It was identified that lack of transportation affects many people attempting to exit poverty. The region is geographically large but very sparsely populated. Data identified that the lack of transportation including public transportation is the third largest barrier in our communities. Without transportation it makes it challenging to obtain and maintain employment, seek need services such as healthcare, mental health services, and shopping. Data from focus groups and coalition meetings stated that without public transportation it is challenging to help families get out of poverty.

### **Food Insecurity**

It was identified that food insecurity affects many people attempting to exit poverty. In our rural region there are no co-op or bulk food purchasing options. Many residents from San Juan County must drive 4 to 6 hours to purchase bulk food. Due to the rising food costs and the scarcity of food during the pandemic has made it more difficult for households to purchase food. SSI and social security recipients live on limited income but face higher food costs due to the distance required to access food. Data identified that food insecurity was the fifth largest barrier in our community.

## **Homelessness**

It was identified from surveys, focus groups, personal interviews, and coalition meetings that homelessness is a barrier in our communities and affects many people trying to exit poverty. Without transitional housing in our region and limited funding for homeless services, homeless individuals struggle in reaching self-sufficiency. Data identified that homelessness was the sixth biggest barrier and affects many people trying to exit poverty.

## **BARRIERS TO EXITING POVERTY**

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### **Mental Health**

It was identified that mental health is a high priority in assisting low-income individuals in achieving self-sufficiency. Low paying jobs and part-time work rarely include health insurance benefits making it extremely difficult for individuals to access needed services. With the increased demand for mental health services, lack of services, lack of funding to assist individuals with needed services continues to be a barrier in our region.

### **Housing**

Lack of affordable housing was identified as a high priority in assisting low-income individuals in achieving self-sufficiency. In many areas in our region, households pay over 30% of their income on housing costs. Fair market rent in Grand County for a three-bedroom apartment is \$1,159. Many renters are unable to access a three-bedroom apartment for under \$1,600 according to participants in focus groups and personal interviews. The communities where housing is affordable is often located many miles from employers, services, and shopping. Also, much of the housing stock affordable to low-income households in the region does not meet minimum habitability standards.

### **Lack of Jobs Paying Self-Sufficient Wages**

It was identified in the data gatherings from surveys, personal interviews, focus groups, and coalition meetings that lack of jobs paying self-sufficient wages affects many people attempting to exit poverty. Data identified that without jobs that pay a living wage, individuals cannot achieve self-sufficiency. In Grand County and San Juan Counties, the economies are based on travel/tourism, the average wage is

only \$3,165 per month. The required living wage for one adult and one child in Grand County is \$63,295. Many of the jobs in our region include benefits. Lack of self-sustaining wages also continues to keep individuals and households living in poverty and inter-generational poverty.

### **Transportation**

It was identified in the data gatherings from surveys, personal interviews, focus groups, and coalition meetings that lack of public transportation is a barrier in reaching self-sufficiency. Our rural region is geographically large but very sparsely populated. The high cost to develop standard public transportation options compared to the number of potential users and their ability to pay the required fees prevent these public services from being offered in our rural region.

### **Food Insecurity**

It was identified in the data gatherings from surveys, personal interviews, focus groups, and coalition meetings that food insecurity is a barrier in reaching self-sufficiency. Many individuals in our region live on limited income, SSI, and social security and face higher food costs due to the distance required to access food. In San Juan County many individuals and households must drive several hours to either Arizona or New Mexico to access bulk foods. There is a rising number of seniors who are on limited income from social security, SSA and are caretakers for their children and grandchildren.

### **Homelessness**

It was identified in the data gatherings from surveys, personal interviews, focus groups, and coalition meetings that homelessness is a barrier in reaching self-sufficiency. Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan lacks transitional and permanent supportive housing. With limited funding for homeless services, homeless individuals and households struggle in reaching self-sufficiency. Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments receives some funding to assist with motel vouchers, with the rising number of homeless individuals those are typically expended within a few months. Data from this assessment has shown that the lack of affordable and accessible housing has increased the number of individuals in need of motel vouchers until permanent housing is obtained.

## **GAPS IN SERVICES**

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## **Mental Health**

Comprehensive mental health/addiction treatment services are not affordable. Many low-income individuals, who do have jobs, don't have employer provided health insurance and aren't eligible for Medicaid. Medicaid benefits are also limited in providing mental health services and addiction recovery services. Local public mental health districts have very few funds to provide extensive services to people who can't pay out of pocket and don't have insurance coverage. One of the largest Mental Health clinic in our region does not allow walk in or same day appointments which was identified as a barrier. From our data gathering methods it was determined that 26% of respondents do not have health insurance, and 22% of respondents health insurance is from Medicaid or Medicare.

## **Housing**

With the low housing stock and rising costs to purchase a home, and rental costs, many individuals and households are struggling to obtain affordable housing. Housing within the main cities where the jobs are primarily located is not affordable. In Grand County, apartments have been transformed to nightly rentals due to tourism and many households are doubling up. Housing that meets minimum habitability standards is also an issue for low-income households. With the rising costs of housing, many individuals are paying substantially more than the recommended 30% for housing costs and are rent burdened.

## **Lack of Jobs Paying Self-Sufficient Wages**

Many of the high paying jobs in our region are shutting down such as coal and energy. With limited jobs in our rural counties that do not provide either a self-sufficient wage and or benefits, it is not only a gap but keeps families living in intergenerational poverty. Many of the jobs in Grand and San Juan County are tourist jobs that are seasonal and do not pay self-sufficient wages.

## **Transportation**

There are specialized programs to provide transportation for medical services. The senior citizen programs in each county provide limited transportation services to the senior centers and for medical services. There is no local public transportation system anywhere in our region. Low-income individuals who cannot afford a vehicle are limited in their ability to access jobs, education, shopping, and medical services.

## **Food Security**

In our rural region there are no co-op or bulk food purchasing options. Lack of transportation makes it challenging for individuals and households to purchase food, and many households must drive 4-6 hours to grocery stores. With the rising food costs and reduction in food supply during the pandemic, many households are experiencing food insecurity for the first time.

## **Homelessness**

In Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan Counties, there is a lack of services for homeless individuals/households including emergency shelters. With limited resources in our rural counties, partnerships that have funding for homeless services are being exhausted quickly and there are limited solutions in helping homeless individuals/households in reaching self-sufficiency. Homeless rates are increasing, and many homeless individuals are finding hidden areas to pitch a tent even during the winter months. These hidden places are often unsafe and further away from needed services. With the rising cost of rent and low wages, this also contributes individuals/households to become homeless.

# **SERVICE NEEDS**

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## **Available Mental Health Services**

Mental health service providers are very limited in our rural region. If a client isn't eligible for services through the public mental health district, or the services for which the client is eligible aren't adequate or don't fit the client's situation, there are no other affordable services providers in the region. With the growing number of individuals seeking mental health services in our region, many individuals must wait several months for services. Staff will strengthen services partnerships with Carbon and Emery Opioid Coalition, Positive Pathways, USARA, Life Balance Recovery, San Juan Counseling and Four Corners Behavioral Health to coordinate more efficiently the use of services that are available.

## **Housing**

With the limited housing stock many individuals trying to obtain affordable housing through subsidized housing or Section 8 are waiting up to 2 years to obtain affordable housing. Rising housing costs have made it challenging for households to pay rent. For households to

afford rent they often double up or move back home with parents or other family members. Staff will strengthen partnerships with other agency programs such as TANF Family Housing, Emergency Rental Assistance, Unified Funding, Housing Authorities, housing rehabilitation, and landlords in our counties to strengthen compliance and to also increase collaboration between landlords and clients so they have a better understanding of policies.

### **Self-Sufficient Jobs**

Many jobs in our communities do not pay a living wage for individuals and households trying to reach self-sufficiency. The jobs available in sectors such as tourism and travel pay slightly above minimum wage but rarely provide sustaining benefits and are usually part-time and seasonal. This prevents individuals and households from reaching self-sufficiency and remain in Intergenerational poverty. Clients are referred to available jobs and training resources offered by the Department of Workforce Services, and Rural Online Initiative.

### **Transportation**

There is no public transportation in Southeastern Utah. There are limited specialized transportation services for medical care, people with disabilities, and senior citizens. The region's service provider agencies coordinate with each other to efficiently use the very limited resources and collaborate on ways to increase our community's limited transportation. Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments is working on a Transit Feasibility Study and coordinating with National Association of Development Organizations, Utah Department of Transportation, Western Transportation Institute, Utah Urban Rural Specialized Transportation Association, VIA Mobility, Carbon and Emery Senior Centers, Active Re-Entry, Four Corners Behavioral Health, Grand County Senior Center, Canyonlands Care Center, Navajo Transit System, and San Juan County Area Aging.

### **Food Security**

In our rural communities there is a lack of bulk-food stores, grocery stores, and food banks in San Juan County. Many households lack transportation which makes it additionally challenging to travel the vast distance to Arizona or New Mexico for bulk-food options. With the rising costs of food, lack of availability of food, and school closures during the pandemic has increased food insecurity in our region. Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments is partnering with Utah Food Bank, Discretionary Funding through Community Services Block Grant, and Utahns Against Hunger to increase food deliveries to San Juan County, home deliveries to some of the most vulnerable individuals/households in our region and assist individuals/households to apply for SNAP benefits.

## Homelessness

In our rural communities there is a lack of transitional housing and limited resources to assist homeless individuals/households. Due to limited resources, homeless individuals/households often have lack of not only shelter but many needed and essential services. Because of the stigma on many homeless individuals, in our rural communities' homeless individuals often set up tents in unauthorized areas which are farther from needed services. Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments staff will continue to build strong collaborations with Local Homeless Coordinating Committees, Local Churches/Religious Organizations, and State partners to increase services for homeless individuals/households in our region.

## ROOT CAUSES OF POVERTY

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Lack of jobs that pay self-sufficient wages. It was identified in the data gathering methods, by our partners, and by our staff that most people are in poverty because they lack solid employment with adequate wages, and lack of training and resources to move them out of. While deficient education/job skills and substance abuse also contribute to poverty, other issues that prevent families from breaking out of the cycle of poverty include:

- Knowledge of how to properly save, budget and use income: People in poverty often don't understand how they can save their money and or how to budget properly. Families in poverty are often victims of high interest rates, pay-day lenders, and tax refund schemes.
- Transportation in access jobs, medical appointments, shopping, and schooling: For low-income families to start the process of breaking out of poverty they need access to transportation to meet employment, medical, nutritional, and school needs.
- Housing: Most of the housing (rental) in this region are either older single-family homes or trailer/mobile home units. There is limited affordable multi-family housing development s in Southeastern Utah. Much of the affordable housing in the region does not meet minimal habitation standards, and individuals/households must wait up to two years to get accepted into low-income housing or Region 8 housing. Building strong relationships with landlords and the Housing Authority will provide low-income individuals and households a better understanding of what is available and accessible.

- **Adequate Mental Health Resources:** Due to limited mental health services in the region, it becomes a challenge for individuals/households to receive the services that they need. By building stronger partnerships with Four Corners Behavioral Health, San Juan Counseling, Carbon and Emery Opioid Coalition, Positive Pathways, USARA, and Life Balance Recovery will help identify and assist individuals/households with the needed resources.
- **Increased food insecurity** for households with limited income including unemployment, family instability, low educational attainment, lack of knowledge on programs such as SNAP, WIC. Lack of transportation to obtain food or long distances required to travel to purchase food. Rising cost of food supply, and limited quantity of food products due to the pandemic.

## LINKAGES/PARTNERSHIPS

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**Employment Availability:** Department of Workforce Services offers job training and life skills programs, assistance with resume writing, job coaching, etc. USU-Eastern Workforce Development Department provides nested education opportunities that start with 6 weeks to 1-year certificates with courses that allow students to continue their education through a four-year degree. Rural Online Initiative to prepare rural workforce with education, training, and services in remote employment.

**Financial Literacy/ Soft Skills:** Clients will be referred from agency and community programs to create a budget and follow it, understand their credit score, and learn how to increase their credit and create a savings account. Soft skills training will be provided as well to help individuals strengthen communication, time management and leadership to help individuals reach the path to self-sufficiency. Participants will be encouraged to set up a 529 Educational Savings Plan for their child's educational savings plan.

**Transportation Services:** Clients are referred to the limited transportation resources that are available from the region's service providers including Transit Feasibility Study and coordinating with National Association of Development Organizations, Utah Department of Transportation, Western Transportation Institute, Utah Urban Rural Specialized Transportation Association, VIA Mobility, Carbon and Emery Senior Centers, Active Re-Entry, Four Corners Behavioral Health, Grand County Senior Center, Canyonlands Care Center, Navajo Transit System, and San Juan County Area Aging.

**Housing Availability:** Eligible clients are helped to access the TANF Family Housing, Emergency Rental Assistance, and Unified Funding. Clients are also referred to the region's housing rehabilitation, Weatherization, and utility assistance programs. SEUALG will strengthen



partnerships with Housing Authorities and landlords in our region to assist individuals/households in obtaining safe and affordable housing.

Homelessness: Eligible homeless individuals and households will be referred to the Homelessness Funding programs and will be provided with the tools to become stably housed. SEUALG will continue to strengthen partnerships with Balance of State and Local Homeless Coordinating Committees within our region to increase communication and support for individuals/families experiencing homelessness.

Utahns Against Hunger (UAH): SEUALG staff will assist individuals/households in applying for SNAP benefits through training from UAH.

Domestic Violence Shelters: referring clients to shelters for family and domestic violence assistance, and assisting with funding to find new housing for their families

**Partnerships Include:**

Department of Workforce Services,

Division of Child and Family Services

Active Re-Entry

Housing Authority of Carbon and Emery County

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments (housing rehabilitation, Self Help Ground Up Construction, HEAT program, Weatherization, TANF Family Housing, Food Banks, Homeless Services).

Southeastern Utah Area Agency on Aging

Utah State University

Welcoming America

Governors Office of Economic Opportunity

Center for Economic Opportunity and Belonging

Carbon, Emery, Grand Senior Centers

Utah State University Eastern

State Community Service Office

CAP Utah

Active Re-Entry

San Juan Foundation

San Juan Counseling

Moab Multicultural Center

Four Corners Behavioral Health

Positive Pathways

Life Balance Recovery

USARA

Southeastern Utah Health District

Canyonlands Care Center

San Juan Area Aging

San Juan Counseling

Navajo Transit System

Local Churches/Religious Organizations

Domestic Violence Shelters

Circles USA

Utah Food Bank

Utahns Against Hunger

Desert Industries

Easter Seals

Head Start

Southeastern Utah Community Development Corporation

Law Enforcement

City and County elected officials and planning department staff

County Economic Development Offices

## RESOURCES

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State Grant for Financial Programs: We identified grants from Health and Human Services. This grant will help our organization provide financial incentives and classes for those who are seeking the skills needed to reach economic stability

CAP Utah: Collaborate to better focus on available local, State, federal, and private resources in assisting low-income individuals/families to acquire the skills and knowledge to achieve self-sufficiency.

Welcoming America: Collaborate to ensure our region is more prosperous by ensuring everyone belongs, including immigrants

United Way: Increasing partnership to strengthen Housing Alliance, Local Homeless Coordinating Committee, and other community programs.

SEUALG Programs: Working with other programs in the agency to coordinate services for low-income clients.

Public Organizations: Utah State University's Rural Online Initiative to help individuals obtain certification for remote work.

City Mayors: Working with city Mayors (Castle Dale, Blanding, and Bluff, along with Navajo Nation)

Commissioners: Working with County Commissioners in (Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan).

# ROMA

National Goal #	Goal Type	Goal	National Performance Indicators	Identified Issues	Current Services and Activities Addressing Needs
1	Individuals and Family	Individuals and families with low incomes are stable and achieve economic security.	FNPI 4.3a The number of individuals who achieved and maintained capacity to meet basic needs for 90 days. FNPI4.3h The number of individuals engaged with the Community Action Agency who report improved financial well-being. FNPI 4.3z.4 The number of individuals who reduced their reliance on public subsidies. FNPI 4.1b The number of unemployed adults who obtained employment up to a living wage. FNPI 4.1c The number of unemployed adults who obtained and maintained employment for at least 90 days. FNPI 4.1h The number employed participants in a career-advancement related program who entered or transitioned into a position that provided increased income and/or benefits. FNPI 1h.1 – Of the above, the number of employed participants who increased income from	Individuals and families lack the skills and resources to access jobs that pay self-sufficient wages.	SRV 1f Job Readiness Training  SRV 1j Resume Development  SRV 2o Behavior Improvement Programs) attitude, self-esteem)  SRV 2p Mentoring  SRV 2f – Financial Literacy

National Goal #	Goal Type	Goal	National Performance Indicators	Identified Issues	Current Services and Activities Addressing Needs
			<p>employment through wage or salary amount increase.</p> <p>FNPI 4.1h.2 Of the above, the number of employed participants who increased income from employment through hours worked increase.</p> <p>FNPI 4.1b The number of unemployed adults who obtained employment (up to a living wage).</p> <p>FNPI 4.1c The number of unemployed adults who obtained and maintained employment for at least 90 days.</p> <p>FNPI 4.1d The number of unemployed adults who obtained and maintained employment for at least 180 days.</p> <p>FNPI 4.1h The number of employed participants in a career-advancement related program who entered or transitioned into a position that provided increased income and/or benefits.</p> <p>FNPI 4.1h.1 Of the above, the number of employed participants who increased income from</p>	<p>There are a lack of economic opportunities for Indigenous individuals in San Juan County.</p>	<p>SRV 1f Job Readiness Training</p> <p>SRV 1j Resume Development</p> <p>SRV 1l Job Referrals</p> <p>SRV 1m Job Placements</p> <p>SRV 3a Financial Capability Skills Training</p> <p>SRV 3c Financial Management Programs (including budgeting, credit management, credit repair, credit counseling, etc.)</p> <p>SRV 7a Case Management</p> <p>SRV 7c Referrals</p>

National Goal #	Goal Type	Goal	National Performance Indicators	Identified Issues	Current Services and Activities Addressing Needs
			<p>employment through wage or salary amount increase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FNPI 4.3c The number of individuals who opened a savings account or IDA.</li> <li>• FNPI 3f The number of individuals who improved their credit scores.</li> <li>• FNPI 4.3g The number of individuals who increased their net worth.</li> <li>• FNPI 4zi – Number of individuals who avoided a utility shut-off</li> <li>• FNPI 4zii- Number of individuals who obtained utilities</li> <li>• FNPI 4ziii – Number of individuals whose energy service was restored after disconnection</li> <li>• FNPI 5z – Number of individuals who reported a better sense of food security.</li> <li>• FNPI 7z.1 Number of individuals who received bundled services and achieved one or more outcomes.</li> </ul>	<p>Individuals and families do not have enough income to meet basic needs</p>	<p>SRV 5jj Food Distribution (Food Bags/Boxes, Food Share Program, Bags of Groceries)</p> <p>SRV 4i Utility Payments (LIHEAP- includes Emergency Utility Payments)</p> <p>SRV 4j Utility Deposits</p> <p>SRV 4k Utility Arrears Payments</p> <p>SRV 3o VITA, EITC, or Other Tax Preparation programs</p> <p>SRV 7d Transportation Services (e.g., support for auto repair, referral to programs that offer transportation)</p>

National Goal #	Goal Type	Goal	National Performance Indicators	Identified Issues	Current Services and Activities Addressing Needs
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FNPI 4.4a The number of households experiencing homelessness who obtained safe temporary shelter.</li> <li>• FNPI 4.4b The number of households who obtained safe and affordable housing.</li> <li>• FNPI 4.4c The number of individuals who maintained safe and affordable housing for 90 days.</li> <li>• FNPI 4.4d The number of individuals who maintained safe and affordable housing for 90 days.</li> </ul>	Individuals and families lack safe and affordable housing.	SRV 4c Rent Payments  SRV 4d Deposit Payments  SRV 43 Mortgage Payments  SRV 4h Landlord/Tenant Rights Education  SRV 4i Utility Payments  SRV 4j Utility Deposits
			FNPI 4b The number of households who obtained safe and affordable housing  FNPI 4c The number of households who maintained safe and affordable housing for 90 days  FNPI 4d The number of households who maintained safe and affordable housing for 180 days.	Homeless individuals and households are homeless	SRV 4c Rent Payments (includes Emergency Rent Payments)  SRV 4d Deposit Payments  SRV 4g Landlord/Tenant Mediations  SRV 4h Landlord/Tenant Rights Education





National Goal #	Goal Type	Goal	National Performance Indicators	Identified Issues	Current Services and Activities Addressing Needs
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FNPI 4.5Z Number of individuals who reported a better sense of food security.</li> <li>• FNPI 4.5z.5 Number of individuals who discontinued drug/alcohol use.</li> <li>• FNPI 4.5z.6 Number of individuals who remained drug/alcohol free for 180 days.</li> </ul>		SRV 7c Referrals
2	Community	Communities where people with low incomes live are healthy and offer economic opportunity.	<p>CNPI 5b – Number of accessible and affordable behavioral and mental health assets or resources created in the identified community</p> <p>CNPI 1c - Number of “living wage” jobs created in the identified community.</p>	<p>Communities lack enough adequate Mental Health Services</p> <p>Communities lack enough living wage jobs</p>	<p>Mental Health Coalition Strategies</p> <p>Coal Country Strike Force / U-REDI</p>
3	Family / Community	People with low incomes are engaged and active in building opportunities in communities.	CNPI 63a – Percent increase of people with low incomes who support the CSBG Eligible Entity’s delivery of service and /or implementation of strategies to	Equity and Inclusion	STR 6 G3e – Civic Engagement Policy Changes

National Goal #	Goal Type	Goal	National Performance Indicators	Identified Issues	Current Services and Activities Addressing Needs
			<p>address conditions of poverty in the community.</p> <p>CNPI 6 G3b – Percent increase of people with low incomes who acquire and maintain leadership roles with the CSBG Eligible Entity or other organizations within the identified community.</p>		

## Goals

Goal # 1 Lack of Self-Sufficient Jobs					
Priority Issue (Need)	Goal	Output	Outcome	Measure	Linkage or Partnership
Individuals and families do not have enough skills and emotional/social resources to access better paying	Individuals and families gain skills and emotional/social resources to access better paying	<u>Short Term (One Year – FY 23)</u>	<u>Short Term (One Year – FY 23,24,25)</u>	Circles USA Reporting,	Department of Workforce Services Division of Child and Family Services

<p>jobs and/or move out of poverty.</p> <p>Individuals and families with low-income lack living-wage employment</p>	<p>jobs and/or move out of poverty.</p> <p>Individuals and families obtain living-wage employment</p>	<p>SRV 1f 16 individuals or households will receive job readiness training</p> <p>SRV 1j 19 Resume Development</p> <p>SRV 1k 19 Interview Skills Training</p> <p>SRV 2o 15 Behavior Improvement Programs (attitude, self-esteem, Dress-for-Success, etc.)</p> <p>SRV 2p 15 Mentoring</p> <p>SRV 3a 26 Financial Capability Skills Training</p> <p>SRV 3c 26 Financial Management Programs (including budgeting, credit management, credit repair, credit counseling, etc.)</p> <p>SRV 6e 13 Getting Ahead Classes</p> <p>SRV 7a 15 Case Management</p> <p>SRV 7d 5 Transportation Services (e.g., bus passes, bus transport, support for auto purchase or repair; including emergency services)</p>	<p>FNPI 1a 7 out of 10, or 70% of unemployed youth obtained employment to gain skills or income.</p> <p>FNPI 1b 15 out of 21 or 71% of unemployed adults who obtained employment (up to a living wage).</p> <p>FNPI 1c 13 out of 18 or 72% of unemployed adults who obtained and maintained employment for at least 90 days (up to a living wage).</p> <p>FNPI 1d 10 out of 14 or 71% of unemployed adults who obtained and maintained employment for at least 180 days (up to a living wage).</p> <p>FNPI 2g 5 out of 7 or 71% of individuals who obtained a high school diploma and/or obtained an equivalency certificate or diploma.</p> <p>FNPI 2h 11 out of 16 or 68% of individuals who obtained a recognized credential, certificate, or degree relating to the achievement of educational or vocational skills.</p>	<p>CAP60 Data Client Intake/ Budgets / Mentor Reports / Client Files</p>	<p>Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments (Other in-house programs). USU Eastern and Sun Center Volunteers Four Corners Behavioral Health Southeastern Utah Health District Local Churches/Religious Organizations Domestic Violence Shelters Circles USA United Way of Eastern Utah Head Start CAP Utah City and county elected officials Rural Online Initiative</p>
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		<p><b><u>Long Term – 3 Years</u></b> <b><u>(FY 23.24.25)</u></b></p> <p>SRV 1f 38 Job Readiness Training</p> <p>SRV 1j 36 Resume Development</p> <p>SRV 1k 32 Interview Skills Training</p> <p>SRV 2o 20 Behavior Improvement Programs (attitude, self-esteem, Dress-for-Success, etc.)</p> <p>SRV 2p 30 Mentoring</p> <p>SRV 3a 60 Financial Capability Skills Training</p> <p>SRV 3c 60 Financial Management Programs (including budgeting, credit management, credit repair, credit counseling, etc.)</p> <p>SRV 6e 38 Getting Ahead Classes</p> <p>SRV 7a 32 Case Management [</p> <p>SRV 7d 13 Transportation Services (e.g., bus passes, bus transport, support for</p>	<p>FNPI 3a 38 out of 52 or 73% of individuals who achieved and maintained capacity to meet basic needs for 90 days.</p> <p>FNPI 3b 26 out of 38 or 68% of individuals who achieved and maintained capacity to meet basic needs for 180 days.</p> <p>FNPI 3c 12 out of 17 or 70% individuals who opened a savings account or IDA.</p> <p>FNPI 3f 15 out of 20 or 75% of individuals who improved their credit scores.</p> <p>FNPI 3g 12 out of 17 or 70% of individuals who increased their net worth.</p> <p>FNPI 3h 20 out of 26 or 76% of individuals engaged with the Community Action Agency who report improved financial well-being.</p> <p><b><u>Long Term – 3 Years</u></b> <b><u>(FY 23.24.25)</u></b></p> <p>FNPI 20 out of 30 or 66% of unemployed youth who</p>		
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		<p>auto purchase or repair; including emergency services)</p>	<p>obtained employment to gain skills or income.</p> <p>FNPI 1b 43 out of 60 or 73% of unemployed adults who obtained employment (up to a living wage).</p> <p>FNPI 1c 31 out of 43 or 72% of unemployed adults who obtained and maintained employment for at least 90 days (up to a living wage).</p> <p>FNPI 1d 29 out of 43 or 67% of unemployed adults who obtained and maintained employment for at least 180 days (up to a living wage).</p> <p>FNPI 2g 13 out of 18 or 66% of individuals who obtained a high school diploma and/or obtained an equivalency certificate or diploma.</p> <p>FNPI 2h 30 out of 42 or 71% of individuals who obtained a recognized credential, certificate, or degree relating to the achievement of educational or vocational skills.</p> <p>FNPI 3a 35 out of 51 or 70% of individuals who</p>		
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			<p>achieved and maintained capacity to meet basic needs for 90 days.</p> <p>FNPI 3b 30 out of 42 or 69% of individuals who achieved and maintained capacity to meet basic needs for 180 days.</p> <p>FNPI 3c 32 out of 45 or 68% of individuals who opened a savings account or IDA.</p> <p>FNPI 3f 40 out of 52 or 71% of individuals who improved their credit scores.</p> <p>FNPI 3g 35 out of 50 or 70% of individuals who increased their net worth.</p> <p>FNPI 3h 48 out of 70 or 68% individuals engaged with the Community Action Agency who report improved financial well-being</p>		
<b>Goal #2 – Housing / Homeless Program</b>					
<b>Priority Issue</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Linkage or Partnership</b>

<p>Individuals and families lack safe and affordable housing.</p> <p>Individuals and families are at risk of eviction</p> <p>Individuals and families are homeless</p>	<p>Individuals and families obtain safe and affordable housing.</p> <p>Individuals and families maintain rental housing.</p> <p>Individuals and families obtain temporary shelter</p>	<p><b><u>Short Term (One Year – FY 23)</u></b></p> <p>SRV 4c 32 Rent Payments (includes Emergency Rent Payments)</p> <p>SRV 4d 25 Deposit Payments</p> <p>SRV 7a 35 Case Management</p> <p>SRV 7d 4 Transportation Services (e.g., bus passes, bus transport, support for auto purchase or repair; including emergency services)</p> <p><b><u>Long Term – 3 Years (FY 23.24.25)</u></b></p> <p>SRV 4c 75 Rent Payments (includes Emergency Rent Payments)</p> <p>SRV 4d 60 Deposit Payments</p> <p>SRV 7a 90 Case Management</p> <p>SRV 7d 10 Transportation Services (e.g., bus passes, bus transport, support for auto purchase or repair; including emergency services)</p>	<p><b><u>Short Term (One Year – FY 23)</u></b></p> <p>FNPI 4b 22 out of 30 or 73% of households who obtained safe and affordable housing</p> <p>FNPI 4c 16 out of 22 or 72% of households who maintained safe and affordable housing for 90 days</p> <p>FNPI 4d 14 out of 20 or 70% of households who maintained safe and affordable housing for 180 days.</p> <p>FNPI 10 out of 15 or 75% of households who avoided eviction.</p> <p><b><u>Long Term – 3 Years (FY 23.24.25)</u></b></p> <p>FNPI 46 out of 65 or 70% of households who obtained safe and affordable housing</p> <p>FNPI 4c 36 out of 52 or 69% of households who maintained safe and affordable housing for 90 days</p> <p>FNPI 4d 34 out of 49 or 69% of households who</p>	<p>HMIS database / HUD Reports CAP60 Data Client Intake / Matrix Sheets / Budgets</p>	<p>Department of Workforce Services, Housing Authority of Carbon County Housing Authority of Southeastern Utah, Four Corners Behavioral Health, Southeastern Utah Health District, CAP Utah, Local Churches/Religious Organizations, Domestic Violence Shelters, Utah Food Bank United Way of Eastern Utah Utah Housing Coalition (Tool Kit and advocacy) Utah Balance of State Carbon County Local Homeless Coordinating Committee</p>
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			<p>maintained safe and affordable housing for 180 days.</p> <p>FNPI 4e 30 out of 42 or 71% of households who avoided eviction.</p>		
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Goal # 3 Mental Health					
Priority Issue (Need)	Goal	Output	Outcome	Measure	Linkage or Partnership

Persons with low-income have poor mental health	Persons with low-income improve their mental health	<p><b><u>Short Term (One Year – FY 23)</u></b></p> <p>SRV 5u 20 Mental Health assessments</p> <p>SRV 5v 20 Mental Health Counseling</p> <p><b><u>Long Term – 3 Years (FY 23.24.25)</u></b></p> <p>SRV 5u Mental Health assessments</p> <p>SRV 5v Mental Health Counseling</p>	<p><b><u>Short Term (One Year – FY 23)</u></b></p> <p>FNPI 4.5a 14 out of 20 or 70% of individuals who demonstrated improved mental and behavioral health and well-being.</p> <p>FNPI 4.5z. 7 out of 10 or 70% of individuals who discontinued drug/alcohol use.</p> <p>FNPI 4.5z 6 out of 9 or 66% of individuals who remained drug/alcohol free for 90 days.</p> <p>FNPI 4.5z. 4 out of 6 or 66% of individuals who remained drug/alcohol free for 180 days.</p> <p><b><u>Long Term – 3 Years (FY 23.24.25)</u></b></p> <p>FNPI 4.5a 36 out of 50 or 72% of individuals who demonstrated improved mental and behavioral health and well-being.</p> <p>FNPI 4.5z. 12 out of 17 or 70% of individuals who discontinued drug/alcohol use.</p>	<p>Utah Department of Health Reports</p> <p>Agency Data from Behavioral Health</p> <p>CAP60 (Information and Referral)</p> <p>Community Surveys</p>	<p>Carbon and Emery Opioid Coalition, USARA, New Life Balance, Department of Workforce Services, Housing Authority of Carbon County Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments (housing rehabilitation, HEAT program, TANF Family Housing, Homelessness Services). Four Corners Behavioral Health Southeastern Utah Health District Positive Pathways Drug Court Local Churches/Religious Organizations Domestic Violence Shelters</p>
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			<p>FNPI 4.5z. 15 out of 22 or 68% of individuals who remained drug/alcohol free for 90 days.</p> <p>FNPI 4.5z. 10 out of 15 or 66% of individuals who remained drug/alcohol free for 180 days.</p>		

**Goal #4 – Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

Priority Issue (Need)	Goal	Output	Outcome	Measure	Linkage or Partnership
Underserved communities lack equity, diversity, and inclusion resources to grow economic opportunities for marginalized communities  Marginalized individuals do not earn enough to meet basic needs	Underserved communities increase equity, diversity, and inclusion resources to grow economic opportunities for marginalized communities  Marginalized individual increase to meet basic needs	<u><b>Short Term (One Year – FY 23)</b></u>  SRV 1f Job Readiness Training  SRV 1h Coaching  SRV 1l Job Referrals  SRV 1m Job Placements  STR 6 G2e – Build/Support Increased Equity  STR 6 G2f – Equity Awareness Campaign  STR 6 G2h – Civic Engagement and Community Involvement in Advocacy Efforts  <u><b>Long Term – 3 Years (FY 23.24.25)</b></u>  SRV 1f Job Readiness Training  SRV 1h Coaching  SRV 1l Job Referrals	<u><b>Short Term (One Year – FY 23)</b></u>  FNPI 4.3a 8 out of 11 or 72% of individuals who achieved and maintained capacity to meet basic needs for 90 days.  FNPI 4.3b 7 out of 10 or 70% of individuals who achieve and maintained capacity to meet basic needs for 180 days.  FNPI 4.3h 7 out of 10 or 70% of individuals engaged with Community Action Agency who report improved financial well-being.  FNPI 4.1h 7 out of 10 or 70% of employed participants in a career-advancement related program who entered or transitioned into a position that provided increased income and/or benefits.  FNPI 4.1h.1 7 out of 10 or 70% of employed participants who increased income from employment	Signed Proclamations from Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan County  Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policies  Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Pre and Post Surveys	Welcoming America, Utah Office of Energy Development, Center for Economic Opportunity and Belonging, board members, County Commissioners, Mayors, CAP Utah

		<p>SRV 1m Job Placements</p> <p>STR 6 G3e – Civic Engagement Policy Changes</p>	<p>through wage or salary amount increase.</p> <p>CNPI 63a –5 Percent increase of people with low incomes who support the CSBG Eligible Entity’s delivery of service and /or implementation of strategies to address conditions of poverty in the community.</p> <p>CNPI 6 G3b –5 Percent increase of people with low incomes who acquire and maintain leadership roles with the CSBG Eligible Entity or other organizations within the identified community.</p> <p><b><u>Long Term – 3 Years (FY 23.24.25)</u></b></p> <p>CNPI 63z.1 12 Key partnerships have policies that support equity, diversity, and inclusion at their agency</p>		
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**Goal # 5 Family Stabilization (Food Pantry and HEAT)**

Priority Issue (Need)	Goal	Output	Outcome	Measure	Linkage or Partnership
Individuals and families do not have enough income to meet basic needs	Individuals and families will increase their income to meet basic needs	<p><b><u>Short Term (One Year – FY 23)</u></b></p> <p>SRV 5jj 350 Food Distribution (Food Bags/Boxes, Food Share Program, Bags of Groceries)</p> <p>SRV 4i 400 Utility Payments (LIHEAP- includes Emergency Utility Payments)</p> <p>SRV 4j 15 Utility Deposits</p> <p>SRV 4k 38 Utility Arrears Payments</p> <p>SRV 3o 40 VITA, EITC, or Other Tax Preparation programs</p> <p>SRV 7d 4 Transportation Services (e.g., bus passes, bus transport, support for auto purchase or repair; including emergency services)</p> <p><b><u>Long Term – 3 Years (FY 23.24.25)</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Short Term (One Year – FY 23)</u></b></p> <p>FNPI 4zi – 40 out of 52 or 76% of individuals who avoided a utility shut-off</p> <p>FNPI 4zii – 12 out of 16 or 75% of individuals who obtained utilities.</p> <p>FNPI 4ziii –15 out of 21 or 71% of individuals whose energy service was restored after disconnection.</p> <p>FNPI 5z – 250 out of 330or 75% of individuals who reported a better sense of food security</p> <p><b><u>Long Term – 3 Years (FY 23.24.25)</u></b></p> <p>FNPI 4zi 100 out of 140 of individuals who avoided a utility shut-off</p> <p>FNPI 4zii – 32 out of 45 or 71% of individuals who obtained utilities.</p> <p>FNPI 4ziii 40 out of 56 or 71% of individuals whose</p>	Client files, CAP60, Spreadsheets, eRep database, Client Intake, Matrix Sheets	<p>Department of Workforce Services, Utility Companies, Utah Food Bank, Active Re-Entry Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments (other departments). Senior Centers, USU Eastern, Local Churches/Religious Organizations, United Way of Eastern Utah, Easter Seals, Deseret Industries, Head Start, CAP Utah City and county elected officials, Price City Local Grocery Stores Postal Service (Food Drive) Local Schools/School District Boy Scouts</p>

		<p>SRV 5jj 800 Food Distribution (Food Bags/Boxes, Food Share Program, Bags of Groceries)</p> <p>SRV 4i 900 Utility Payments (LIHEAP- includes Emergency Utility Payments)</p> <p>SRV 4j 22 Utility Deposits SRV 4k 42 Utility Arrears Payments</p> <p>SRV 3o 1 VITA, EITC, or Other Tax Preparation programs</p> <p>SRV 7d 13 Transportation Services (e.g., bus passes, bus transport, support for auto purchase or repair; including emergency services)</p>	<p>energy service was restored after disconnection.</p> <p>FNPI 5z – 600 out of 850 or 70% of individuals who reported a better sense of food security.</p> <p>FNPI 4zi – 100 out of 140 or 71% of individuals who avoided a utility shut-off</p> <p>FNPI 4zii – 32 out of 45 or 71% of individuals who obtained utilities.</p> <p>FNPI 4ziii 35 out of 50 or 70% individuals whose energy service was restored after disconnection.</p>		
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# (1) Income / Use of Income

Base Year:

2021

## A – Income Area Characteristics

Characteristics (see the Data Element Suggestions under Issue Area “Use of Income”)	By County:					Overall Measure for Utah
	<u>Carbon</u>	<u>Emery</u>	<u>Grand</u>	<u>San Juan</u>		
Individual Poverty Rate (overall) : DWS <a href="https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/library/other/poverty.html">https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/library/other/poverty.html</a>	16.8%	11.6%	9%	25%		9.8%
Percent Change in poverty rate from last assessment	-	-1.4%	-4%	-9%		
Family Poverty Rate (overall) : DWS <a href="https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/library/other/poverty.html">https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/library/other/poverty.html</a>	13.9%	7.6%	6.5%	19.4%		6.8%
Poverty Rate By Race : DWS <a href="https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/library/other/poverty.html">https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/library/other/poverty.html</a>						
White alone	16%	11%	8%	11%		8%
Hispanic	25%	29%	15%	34%		17%
Black or African American	1%	0%	0%	0%		27%
American Indian and Alaska Native, alone	10%	0%	12%	37%		27%
Asian alone	100%	0%	0%	16%		13%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, alone	0%	0%	0%	40%		11%
Some other race, alone	4%	0%	0%	5%		19%
Two or more races	8%	0%	66%	20%		12%
Poverty Rate By Age: DWS <a href="https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/library/other/poverty.html">https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/library/other/poverty.html</a>						
Under 18 years	20%	17%	12%	30%		11%
Under 5 years	21%	12%	13%	39%		13%
5 to 17 years	20%	18%	12%	26%		10%
	18%	11%	8%	23%		10%

Updated 11/20/19

18 to 64 years						
18 to 34 years	22%	18%	13%	26%		14%
35 to 64 years	16%	7%	6%	21%		7%
60 years and over	7%	5%	9%	22%		6%
65 years an over	7%	5%	9%	22%		6%
<b>Poverty Rate By Ethnicity: (American Factfinder S1701)</b> <a href="https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t">https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t</a>						
Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origins	25%	29%	15%	34%		17%
Not Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origins						
<b>Poverty Rate by Gender DWS</b> <a href="https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/library/other/poverty.html">https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/library/other/poverty.html</a>						
Male (Number or Percentage)	14%	10%	10%	24%		9%
Female (Number or Percentage)	20%	13%	9%	26%		11%
<b>Total households at/below 125% of Poverty (Number or Percentage) (American Factfinder S1901)</b> <a href="https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t">https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t</a>	3,914	1,826	1,231	4,355		411,261
<b>Median Income (household) (American Factfinder S1901)</b> <a href="https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t">https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t</a>	\$51,158	\$55,554	\$51,557	\$45,394		\$71,621
<b>Required Living Wage</b> (1 adult, 2 children— <a href="https://livingwage.mit.edu/">MIT Living Wage Calculator</a> ) <a href="https://livingwage.mit.edu/">https://livingwage.mit.edu/</a>	\$33.86	\$34.46	\$34.90	\$34.88		\$36.67
<b>DWS Stats</b> <a href="https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/misstats/pubassist/">https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/misstats/pubassist/</a>						
Child Care –recipients as a percentage of county population	1.1%	0.3%	1.1%	0.4%		0.7%
SNAP Assistance –recipients as a percentage of county population	12.2%	7.7%	5.7%	18.3%		5.1%
<b>Kids Count data:</b> <a href="https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#UT/5/0/char/0">https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#UT/5/0/char/0</a>						
Percent of students receiving free or reduced lunch	50%	46%	51%	70%		37%
Number of Children Living in Intergenerational Poverty	924	274	314	1,583		57,391
Number of adults Living in Intergenerational Poverty	732	171	201	956		37,421
Percent of Children Living with a Single Parent	28.5%	16.2%	34.4%	29.2%		N/A
<b>Other Data Points: (Note Source)</b>						
Local EITC data?						
Student debt held by students attending universities/colleges area: <a href="https://ticas.org/interactive-map/">https://ticas.org/interactive-map/</a>	\$21,529	\$21,529	\$21,529	\$21,529		\$18,344

## B – Summary of Survey, Focus Groups, Interviews, and Informal Questioning Results

\*In red are examples, please delete.

\*\*See the Tool Kit for more guidance and suggestions for this category

### Causes of Poverty

No.	Issue	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description
1	Lack of living wage jobs	Families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys, focus groups, interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan	55% of respondents indicated that there are not enough living wage jobs with benefits in the community. Insufficient access to living wage jobs can result in families remaining in poverty. Participants stated that the minimum wage is not sufficient to support a family with the increased costs of living. Many respondents from surveys, personal interviews, and focus groups stated that lack of education services was a contributing factor to poverty.
2	Lack of living wage jobs	Families in Poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys, focus groups, interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon and Emery	Participants commented that with the closure of higher paying jobs such as mining, power plants, and gas and oil extraction there is a lack of jobs in our community that pay self-sufficient wages for families.
3	Substance Abuse	Families in Poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys, focus groups, interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan	Substance abuse and opioid addiction were discussed at each focus group as a barrier to accessing adequate income. Substance abuse and dependency can cause an individual to prioritize their addiction over other goals including employment.
4	Financial Literacy	Families in Poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys, focus groups, interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan	31% of respondents indicated that lack of financial literacy, lack of saving, increased debt, and relying on high interest payday loans was a cause of keeping families in poverty.
5	Lack of Transportation	Families in Poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys, focus groups, interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan	Focus group members frequently mentioned that lack of transportation in our region makes it difficult for individuals to obtain and maintain employment thus keeping families in poverty.
6	Cost of Housing	Families in Poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys, focus groups, interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan	Respondents from surveys, personal interviews, and focus groups stated that due to the rising cost of housing whether purchasing a home or renting is not affordable. Many respondents mentioned that their family is unable to pay for other necessities such as food, utilities, transportation, medication due to high housing costs.
7	Cost of Education	Families in Poverty, community	Focus groups, interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon, Emery, Grand	Focus group participants stated that the high cost of education prevents many individuals from attending a University or Trade School. This is a contributing factor that keeps individuals/households in poverty.

		members, coalition members			
8	High Cost of Childcare	Families in Poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys, focus groups, MIT Living Wage Calculator	Carbon, Emery, Grand	Many families have a difficult time applying for childcare subsidies and do not understand the application process. It was determined that Case Managers needed assist in this process.
9	Debt	Families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Focus groups	Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan	Participants from focus groups indicated that unmanaged debt, makes it challenging for individuals trying to exit poverty. Low credit scores, and high interest loans makes it difficult for families to pay for necessities because they are stuck in the debt cycle.
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(2) Education						
Base Year:		2021				
A – Income Area Characteristics						
Characteristics		By County:				Overall Measure for Utah
		Carbon	Emery	Grand	San Juan	
Utah State Board of Education: <a href="https://www.schools.utah.gov/data/reports?mid=1424&amp;tid=5">https://www.schools.utah.gov/data/reports?mid=1424&amp;tid=5</a>						
High School Graduation Rate		87.7%	86.5%	85.4%	87%	88.2%
Drop Out Rate		10%	12.8%	10.6%	7.9%	10%
CAP Needs Assessment Tool: <a href="https://cap.engagementnetwork.org/">https://cap.engagementnetwork.org/</a>						
No High School Diploma		5.8%	7%	7.2%	10.3%	6.1%
High School Only		27.2%	31.4%	34.7%	34.2%	24.6%

Some College	34.4%	32.1%	23.3%	22.2%	28.9%
Associates Degree	16.2%	14.4%	8.5%	11.5%	9.3%
Bachelor's Degree	14.2%	11.4%	14.9%	10.1%	19.4%
Graduate or professional degree	4.2%	3.1%	9.6%	5.9%	9.3%
Adult Literacy					
Kids Count <a href="https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#UT/5/0/char/0">https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#UT/5/0/char/0</a>					
Student Enrollment	3,875	2,309	1,571	3,046	612,434
Pupil Teacher Ratio	17.7	17.6	16.8	17.3	22.1
Chronic Absence (percent of enrolled students)	16.9%	19.1%	11.4%	18.7%	11.8%
American Fact Finder—ACS Report CP02 <a href="https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t">https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t</a>					
Total Households with a computer	77.9%	76.1%	83.8%	53.9%	87%
Total Households with broadband Internet subscription	80.7%	80.5%	89.1%	53.4%	90.8%
<b>OTHER:</b>					
Any local preschool data?	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	
Number of Colleges, Universities, Trade Schools in the county?					

## C – Summary of Survey, Focus Groups, Interviews, and Informal Questioning Results

\*In **red** are examples, please delete.

\*\*See the Tool Kit for more guidance and suggestions for this category

### Causes of Poverty

No.	Cause	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description
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1	Lack of Education	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys, focus groups, interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan	28% of respondents stated that lack of education from either a 4-year university or a trade school was a contributing factor that kept individuals and families from gaining jobs that pay a living wage and kept families living in poverty. 55% of respondents indicated that without a high school diploma, GED, or post-secondary schooling will have a difficult time accessing living wage jobs.
2	High Cost of Education	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys, focus groups, interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan	Respondents from focus groups stated that getting an education was needed for individuals to receive better paying jobs. Due to the high cost of education, this is a barrier and keeps families in poverty.
3	Intergenerational Poverty	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys	Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan	Individuals living in Intergenerational poverty are often living in survival mode and this takes priority over setting long term goals such as Education.
4	Cost of Childcare	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members,	Focus groups, surveys	Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan	32% of respondents from surveys, and focus groups indicated that the high cost of childcare prevents individuals from accessing education.
5	Mental Health	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Focus groups, personal interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon, Emery	Lack of mental health services was mentioned in each focus group and coalition meeting as a barrier to accessing adequate education. Many individuals that lack the needed mental health resources will often prioritize their addiction or needs over setting long term goals like education.
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### (3) Employment

**Base Year:** 2021

#### A – Income Area Characteristics

Characteristics	By County:					Overall Measure for Utah
	<u>Carbon</u>	<u>Emery</u>	<u>Grand</u>	<u>San Juan</u>		
<b>DWS</b> <a href="https://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/utalmis/#/laborforce">https://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/utalmis/#/laborforce</a>						
Unemployment Rate	5.2%	4.7%	9.5%	10.2%		4.7%
<b>DWS:</b> <a href="https://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/utalmis/#/industry">https://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/utalmis/#/industry</a>						
Sector with highest wages	Management of Companies / Enterprises	Utilities	Mining	Utilities		Information
Sector with highest employment	Healthcare / Social Assistance	Retail Trade	Accommodation / Food Services	Education Services		Healthcare / Social Assistance
Average monthly wage for sector with highest employment	\$3,349	\$1,923	\$2,201	\$2,917		\$4,062
<b>DWS:</b> <a href="https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/library/other/poverty.html">https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/library/other/poverty.html</a>						
Percent employed and in poverty	9.1%	6.5%	5.3%	11.3%		6.1%
<b>DWS:</b> <a href="https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/library/wages/annualprofilewages.html">https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/library/wages/annualprofilewages.html</a>						
Median Household Income	\$52,110	\$61,893	\$53,535	\$49,483		\$75,705
Median Per Capita Income	\$40,679	\$35,177	\$59,196	\$28,074		\$48,939
Average Monthly Wage (individual)	\$3,666	\$3,870	\$3,155	\$3,220		\$4,492
<b>Care about Childcare:</b> <a href="https://careaboutchildcare.utah.gov/parent/costOfCare.aspx">https://careaboutchildcare.utah.gov/parent/costOfCare.aspx</a>						
Average monthly cost of licensed child care (2 yrs)	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a		
Average monthly cost of licensed child care (3 yrs)						
Average monthly cost of licensed child care (4-5 yrs)						
Average monthly cost of child care—school age (out of school)						
<b>American Fact Finder—ACS Report DP03</b>						

<a href="https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t">https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t</a>						
Mean earnings (individual)	\$38,062	\$27,774	\$40,147	\$43,235		\$58,132
Mean family income:	\$70,050	\$75,133	\$73,678	\$64,311		\$107,443
Mean travel time to work	17.8 min.	19.4 min.	13.9 min	22.4 min.		22.5 min.
Other (Note source)						

## C – Summary of Survey, Focus Groups, Interviews, and Informal Questioning Results

\*In red are examples, please delete.

\*\*See the Tool Kit for more guidance and suggestions for this category

### Causes of Poverty

No.	Cause	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description
1	Lack of living wage jobs	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys, focus groups, interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon	55% of respondents stated that lack of living wage jobs is the number one factor in keeping families in poverty. Data from focus groups and coalition meetings stated that the high cost of living versus the low wages were a contributing factor in families remaining in poverty.
	Lack of transportation	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys, focus groups, interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan	From focus groups, surveys, and coalition meetings respondents stated that lack of transportation in our rural region was one of the top barriers that kept families from obtaining and maintaining employment. This is a contributing factor in keeping families in poverty.
2	Lack of adequate jobs	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Interviews, focus groups	Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan	Many jobs that are available do not pay self-sufficient wages that include benefits. Many respondents stated that this is one of the top reasons that families remain in poverty.
3	At-risk individuals	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Interviews, focus groups	Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan	At-risk individuals are unable to obtain employment due to past criminal history, drug history, or can only obtain jobs that pay minimum wage and are not flexible.
4	Cost of Childcare	Individuals and families in poverty, community	Personal Interviews, focus groups	Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan	45% of respondents indicated that the cost of childcare prevents individuals in the community from accessing or obtaining employment.



		members, coalition members			
5	Substance Abuse	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Personal interviews, focus groups, coalition meetings	Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan	55% of respondents indicated substance abuse is a top barrier in individuals obtaining and continuing their education.
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4) Housing							
Base Year:		2021					
Characteristics	By County:						Overall Measure for Utah
	<u>Carbon</u>	<u>Emery</u>	<u>Grand</u>	<u>San Juan</u>			
NLIHC Out of Reach Report: <a href="https://reports.nlihc.org/oor">https://reports.nlihc.org/oor</a>							Utah - 25th Highest Housing Wage / \$20.21 required to afford 2 bedroom rental
2 Bedroom FMR	\$734	\$734	\$810	\$734			\$1,051 /
Monthly rent affordable at mean renter wage	\$553	\$649	\$752	\$655			\$814
Annual AMI	\$65,800	\$69,400	\$61,700	\$58,800			\$86,186

30% of AMI	\$19,740	\$20,820	\$18,510	\$17,640			\$25,856
Monthly rent affordable at 30% AMI	\$494	\$521	\$463	\$441			\$646
<b>DWS Affordable Housing Profiles Report:</b> <a href="https://jobs.utah.gov/housing/reports/">https://jobs.utah.gov/housing/reports/</a>							
Total Renter Households	27.2%	20.1%	30%	19.5%			30%
Affordable & Available Housing Deficit (Renters/Units) Low-Income	15.9%	16.9%	16.9%	23.6%			24%
Affordable & Available Housing Deficit (Renters/Units) Very Low-Income	21.2%	21.8%	18.5%	14.6%			20%
Affordable & Available Housing Deficit (Renters/Units) Extremely Low-Income	26.6%	33.9%	29.3%	24.2%			-45,421
<b>DWS Annual Report On Homelessness:</b> <a href="https://jobs.utah.gov/housing/reports/">https://jobs.utah.gov/housing/reports/</a>							
Number of sheltered homeless individuals (PIT count)	0	0	3	0			2,427
Number of unsheltered homeless Individuals (PIT count)	13	13	9	0			704
Number of Chronically Homeless Individuals (PIT count)	5	5	7	0			688
Number of Homeless Veterans (PIT count)	0	0	1	0			18
Number of Transitional Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing Units	0	0	0	0			
<b>Other</b> (note Sources)							

(4)

Housing

Base Year:

2021

Characteristics (see the Data Element suggestions under Issue Area “Use of Income”)	By County:					Overall Measure for Utah
	Carbon	Emery	Grand	San Juan		
Census Quick Facts: <a href="https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045218">https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045218</a>						
Average Household Size (Persons per Household)	2.54	2.74	2.28	3.46		3.12
CAP Needs assessment Tool: <a href="https://cap.engagementnetwork.org/assessment-tool">https://cap.engagementnetwork.org/assessment-tool</a>						
Total residential Addresses	9,787	4,084	5,335	5,550		
Residential Vacancy Rate	14.2%	15.1%	27.8%	14.9%		
Number Occupied Housing Units	7,844	1,015	4,006	3,992		
Number of Unsafe, Unsanitary Homes	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a		
Eviction Filing Rate	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a		
Other (note Sources)						

## C – Summary of Survey, Focus Groups, Interviews, and Informal Questioning Results

\*In red are examples, please delete.

\*\*See the Tool Kit for more guidance and suggestions for this category

### Causes of Poverty

No.	Cause	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description
1	Lack of Affordable Housing	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys, focus groups, interviews, coalition meeting	Grand County	59% of respondents stated that obtaining affordable housing in Grand County is extremely difficult. The median housing prices listed for Grand County do not match the actual costs to both own and rent a home or apartment. Because of the housing shortage, available units are rented at a substantially higher cost. This is a contributing factor in keeping families in poverty as to afford housing they do not have other funds for food, medication, and transportation.
2	Lack of Accessible Housing for Disabled Individuals	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Focus groups, and Interviews	Carbon, Emery, and Grand County	Many respondents stated there is a lack of accessible housing for disabled individuals. Disabled individuals are more likely to spend more than the recommended 30% of their income on rent. This perpetuates higher rates of poverty and housing insecurity among people with disabilities.
4	Lack of Transitional Housing	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Focus groups, interviews	Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan County	Our rural regions homeless population is growing and without transitional housing, many families remain homeless. From focus groups many participants stated that because of the housing shortage this has increased the growing rate of homelessness. Often many homeless individuals must seek motel vouchers, couch surf, or live in uninhabitable areas until they can obtain housing. Homeless individuals struggle with obtaining employment when they are not stably housed.
5	Criminal Background	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Focus groups, interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon County	Respondents from personal interviews and focus groups indicated that individuals with a criminal background are less likely to obtain safe and stable housing. Individuals with a criminal background are also less likely to be selected by landlords.
6	Transportation	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Focus groups, surveys, interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan County	45% or respondents indicated that the total lack of transportation in our region is a barrier and keeps families in poverty. Many individuals and households that do not have transportation are forced to live closer to city limits making their rent extremely high. Due to the lack of affordable housing in our region, many individuals are forced to move outside of city limits to obtain more affordable housing. This can result in job loss.
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5)

Nutrition

Base Year: 2021

A – Income Area Characteristics

Characteristics	By County:						Overall Measure for Utah
	<u>Carbon</u>	<u>Emery</u>	<u>Grand</u>	<u>San Juan</u>			
Utahns Against Hunger (UAH) County Profiles: <a href="https://www.uah.org/fight-hunger/learn-more">https://www.uah.org/fight-hunger/learn-more</a>							
% individuals food insecure, county	14.9%	14.3%	14.7%	19.4%			10.7%
% children food insecure, county	18.6%	19.2%	19.2%	24.7%			
% individuals in county with limited access to grocery store	11%	1%	9%	34%			
% Households living below basic survival budget threshold	42.2%	40%	44.1%	67.2%			
% County population participating in SNAP	11.89%	8.05%	6.54%	17.88%			6.7%
Estimated number low-income individuals NOT enrolled in SNAP	927	947	835	1,088			
% students eligible for free & reduced price meals	40-45%	49.27%	38.18%	72.91%			
Number summer meal sites	7	7	1	6			
Number Sr. meal sites	2	5	1	11			
Total WIC participants (reported by health district)	849	849	849	288			
UAH Emergency Food Resources: <a href="https://www.uah.org/get-help/emergency-food">https://www.uah.org/get-help/emergency-food</a>	2	1	1	1			

Number of Food Pantries	2	1	1	1			
<b>Other</b> (see Data Element suggestions for more options)							

## C – Summary of Survey, Focus Groups, Interviews, and Informal Questioning Results

\*In **red** are examples, please delete.

\*\*See the Tool Kit for more guidance and suggestions for this category

### Causes of Poverty

No.	Cause	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description
1	Lack of Food Resources	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys, focus groups, interviews, coalition meeting	San Juan County	From focus groups and personal interviews, respondents stated that due to the lack of available food resources grocery stores, lack of availability of food, and lack of money to purchase food was a barrier of keeping families in poverty. Many individuals stated that they had to drive several hours to the nearest grocery store and are only able to make this trip once monthly.
2	Cost of Nutritious Food	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys, focus groups, Interviews, Coalition Meetings	Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan County	37% of respondents stated that the cost to purchase nutritious food was a barrier and they often had to skip meals with the rising cost of food during the pandemic. From focus groups it was discussed that the rising cost of food is making it challenging for families to keep up on other expenses such as utilities, rent, transportation and needed necessities for their families.
3	Transportation	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys, interviews, coalition meetings	San Juan County	65% of respondents indicated that due to the lack of public transportation, it makes it challenging as there is no bulk food options, and lack of grocery stores in this rural region. Many individuals rely on family members to help them obtain food resources. Many of the respondents indicated that they must travel to Arizona or New Mexico to purchase bulk food.
4	Mental Health	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Interviews, focus groups, coalition meetings	Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan County	From personal interviews and focus groups, many respondents indicated that individuals with lack of mental health or have substance abuse issues are more likely to spend their resources on drugs, alcohol and not purchase healthy food items.
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Gaps in Services					

**(6)****Health: Demographics****Base Year:** 2021**A – Income Area Characteristics**

Characteristics	By County:					Overall Measure for Utah
	<u>Carbon</u>	<u>Emery</u>	<u>Grand</u>	<u>San Juan</u>		
County Health Rankings Data: <a href="https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/utah">https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/utah</a>						
Demographic:						
Life expectancy	76.2	76.5	78.2	76.4		80.1
Infant mortality (# deaths) - per 1,000 births	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		5
% of population diabetic	11%	12%	11%	14%		8%
Health Behavior:						
Adult Smoking	15%	13%	13%	19%		9%
Adult Obesity	30%	32%	27%	39%		27%
Excessive drinking	12%	12%	12%	11%		11%
Sexually transmitted infections - per 100,000	305.5	168.7	206.7	273.5		
# drug overdose deaths - per 100,000	21	14	n/a	n/a		19
#Firearm Fatalities - per 100,000	22	14	n/a	18		12
Clinical Care:						
% uninsured	9%	9%	13%	16%		10%
Ratio primary care physicians/per residents	2,030:1	10,010:1	750:1	1,540:1		1,730:1
Ratio mental health providers/per residents	510:1	910:1	420:1	670:1		290:1
Ratio dentist/per residents	1,080:1	3,340:1	1,220:1	1,090:1		1,450:1

CAP Needs assessment Tool: <a href="https://cap.engagementnetwork.org/assessment-tool">https://cap.engagementnetwork.org/assessment-tool</a>							
Number of federally qualified health care centers	3	0	0		0		41
Number of persons receiving Medicare	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a			N/a
DWS medical assistance: <a href="https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/misstats/pubassist/">https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/misstats/pubassist/</a>							
Number of persons receiving medical assistance (by month)	5,374	1,887	1,892	5,643			485,619
State Health Dept Data: * <a href="https://ibis.health.utah.gov/ibisph-view/community/snapshot/Builder.htm">https://ibis.health.utah.gov/ibisph-view/community/snapshot/Builder.htm</a>							
Cancer Death Rate	3	3	3	3			179
Suicide Rate	6	3.5	1.25	3.5			
Depression Prevalence							
Current Cigarette Smoking							
Cost as a Barrier to care in the Past Year							



## C – Summary of Survey, Focus Groups, Interviews, and Informal Questioning Results

\*In red are examples, please delete.

\*\*See the Tool Kit for more guidance and suggestions for this category

### Causes of Poverty

No.	Cause	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description
1	Substance Abuse	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Focus groups, interviews,	Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan County	Substance abuse and opioid addiction was mentioned in each focus group as a cause of poverty in our region. Carbon and Emery Counties have the highest rate of substance abuse in the State of Utah.
2	Cost of Health Care	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Focus groups, interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan County	Respondents from focus groups, interviews, and coalition meetings stated that many individuals have Medicaid, and this does not pay for many services such as treatment. Other individuals do not have insurance and cannot afford to pay high costs for these services.
3	Lack of Healthcare Services	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Focus groups, surveys, interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan	Respondents from focus groups, personal interviews, surveys, and coalition meetings identified that our region has a lack of healthcare services especially for Mental Health. With the growing number of individuals seeking mental health services, this is a barrier in our region.
4				San Juan	
5					

### Gaps in Services

(7)

**Transportation****Base Year:** 2021**A – Income Area Characteristics**

Characteristics	By County:						Overall Measure for Utah
	<u>Carbon</u>	<u>Emery</u>	<u>Grand</u>	<u>San Juan</u>			
Data USA <a href="https://datausa.io/profile/geo/utah">https://datausa.io/profile/geo/utah</a>							
Car ownership: % HH with 0 car							
Car ownership: % HH with 1 car							
Car ownership: % HH with 2 car							
Average Commute Time							
Percent who drove alone							
Percent who worked at home							
Percent who carpooled	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a			
<a href="https://www.rideuta.com">https://www.rideuta.com</a> (limited resource)							
Public transportation—available Y/N	No	No	No	No			
<b>Other</b>							

## C – Summary of Survey, Focus Groups, Interviews, and Informal Questioning Results

\*In red are examples, please delete.

\*\*See the Tool Kit for more guidance and suggestions for this category

### Causes of Poverty

No.	Cause	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description
1	Lack of Public Transportation	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys, focus groups, personal interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan County	50% of survey respondents stated that Lack of Transportation was a barrier and is a contributing factor in keeping individuals and households in poverty. Without transportation it is difficult for individuals to obtain and maintain employment and obtain needed services.
2	Lack of Reliable Transportation	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys, focus groups, personal interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan County	From focus groups, personal interviews with community members, Circle Leaders, clients of SEUALG services stated that lack of reliable transportation is a barrier in obtaining and maintain employment. This was also identified as a barrier that keeps individuals and households in poverty.
3	Lack of Assistance for Car Repairs	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Personal interviews, focus groups	Carbon, Emery, Grand	From focus groups and personal interviews many respondents stated that there is a lack of assistance for car repairs for individuals who are working. If an individuals cannot pay for car repairs, they often cannot maintain employment. This was identified as a barrier that keeps individuals in poverty.
4	Low Wages	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Focus groups, personal interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan County	From focus groups, personal interviews, and coalition meetings, respondents indicated that individuals low wages were a factor in individuals and households being able to purchase reliable transportation.
5	High Fuel Costs	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Personal Interviews, focus groups	Carbon, Grand, San Juan	45 respondents from personal interviews and focus groups, participants stated that the rising fuel costs has been challenging for them to purchase enough fuel to travel to work, grocery stores, and medical appointments.

(8)

Other IGP

Base Year:

2021

A – Income Area Characteristics

Characteristics	By County:						Overall Measure for Utah
	Carbon	Emery	Grand	San Juan			
DWS data: <a href="https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/library/other/igp.html">https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/library/other/igp.html</a>							
% of children Living in IGP	16%	9%	16%	31%			4%
% of children at risk of remaining in poverty as adults	25%	21%	29%	24%			19%
% adults experiencing IGP	11%	9%	6.7%	18.5%			1.8%
Other:							

### C – Summary of Survey, Focus Groups, Interviews, and Informal Questioning Results

\*In red are examples, please delete.

\*\*See the Tool Kit for more guidance and suggestions for this category

#### Causes of Poverty

No.	Cause	Population	Data Source	County	Results and Description
1	Low Paying Jobs	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys, focus groups, interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon, Grand, San Juan County	47% of survey respondents indicated that individuals working at low paying jobs are unable to get out of poverty. For many individuals this will continue the cycle of Intergenerational Poverty.
2	Financial Literacy	Individuals and families in poverty, community	Surveys, focus groups, personal interviews	Carbon, Grand	31% of respondents indicated that lack individuals that lack Financial Literacy will continue the path of poverty and Intergenerational poverty.

		members, coalition members			
3	Education	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys, focus groups, interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan County	Respondents indicated that lack of education is one of the reasons that individuals remain in poverty. From personal interviews and focus groups it was stated that when individuals live in poverty, they are not able to set long term goals such as education. This is a barrier and keeps individuals and families in poverty.
4	Self-Sufficiency Services	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys, focus groups, interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan County	Through case management services, clients have stated that the lack of resources and training to increase self-sufficiency is limited and makes it a challenge to exit poverty.
5	Lack of Transportation	Individuals and families in poverty, community members, coalition members	Surveys, focus groups, interviews, coalition meetings	Carbon, Emery, Grand, San Juan County	Respondents stated that the lack of public transportation in our region made it challenging for individuals to obtain and maintain employment. This was identified as a barrier in keeping families in poverty, and intergenerational poverty.
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# **Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments**

## **Community Needs Assessment**

### **Prioritization Summary**

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#### **Executive Summary**

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments has worked diligently in determining the prioritization issues collected from surveys, personal interviews, public forums, and coalition partnerships. Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments Program Managers, and staff used the nominal ranking process based on the Needs Assessment survey to set the top priorities for the 2022 Community needs Assessment. These issue areas include Mental Health, Housing, Lack of Jobs that pay self-sufficient wages, Transportation, Food Insecurity, and Homelessness.

Mental Health Services in our region is a prioritized issue as there are limited services for individuals who need services whether it is mental health counseling, or treatment for substance abuse. Individuals and households that do not have insurance or have Medicaid and that does not always pay for necessary treatment. Individuals requiring treatment do not have transportation or access to transportation making it challenging to keep appointments.

Housing was a prioritized issue as housing costs continue to rise and with the housing shortage in our region rent, or home ownership costs continue to rise. Families often pay more than 30% for their housing costs and families are doubling up. Lack of affordable housing has also increased the homeless rates in our region. Without affordable and accessible housing, this continues to be a challenge for individuals/families trying to get out of poverty.

Lack of Jobs that pay self-sufficient wages was a prioritized issue as many of the jobs in our region are either part-time, pay lower wages, or are seasonal positions from the tourism industry. Many of the higher paying jobs such as coal and energy have shut down. Without higher paying jobs that have benefits is a barrier that keeps families in poverty.

Transportation was a prioritized issue as there is no accessible transportation that exists in Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan County. The cost is too high to develop transportation in our rural region. Without transportation, individuals/families are often unable to obtain employment or keep employment. With the high cost of housing, individuals/families often must move further away from services where housing costs are lower, making transportation critical to move individuals/families out of poverty.

Food Insecurity was a prioritized issue in our region as many individuals live hours away from accessible food sources. During the pandemic, stores had limited food stock, and with the rising costs of food has decreased food security for many households.

Homelessness was identified as a prioritized issue in our region. Our region lacks transitional housing and emergency shelters, and homeless individuals struggle in obtaining housing. Limited funding and services to assist homeless individuals and households has been

## Descriptions

### Priority #1: Mental Health

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments utilized multiple methods to collect information regarding the Lack of Mental Health Services and substance abuse in our rural region. Data collected through personal interviews, focus groups, surveys, and community stakeholder meetings. The data collection included low-income residents and representatives, Southeastern Utah Health Department, United Way of Eastern Utah, faith-based organizations, Utah State Extension, Carbon & Emery Opioid and Substance Use Coalition, Four Corners Behavioral Health, and Community Health Clinics.

### Priority #2 Housing

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments staff and partners collected housing data through personal interviews, focus groups, surveys, and coalition meetings. Information to gather data on housing in our region. The data collection included low-income residents and representatives, Housing Authorities, United Way of Eastern Utah, Elected Officials, Utah State University, and Department of Workforce Services.

### Priority #3 Lack of Jobs that Pay Self-Sufficient Wages

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments utilized multiple methods to collect information regarding the Lack of Jobs that pay a self-sufficient wage. Data collected from surveys, personal interviews, focus groups, and coalition members identified that lack of living wage jobs also contributed to intergenerational poverty. SEUALG staff and community partners collected this data from personal interviews, focus groups, surveys, and community stakeholder meetings. The data collection included low-income residents and representatives, Utah State University Eastern, Division of Workforce Services, United Way of Eastern Utah, Southeastern Utah Health Department

## **Priority #4 Transportation**

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments utilized multiple methods to collect information regarding Transportation in our rural region. SEUALG staff and community partners conducted personal interviews, focus groups, surveys, and community stake holders meetings. The data collection included low-income residents and representatives, Utah State University Eastern, United Way of Eastern Utah, Economic Development, Department of Workforce Services, County Commissioners, and key stakeholders.

## **Priority #5 Food Insecurity**

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments utilized multiple methods to collect information regarding Food Insecurity in our rural region. SEUALG staff, and community partners conducted personal interviews, focus groups, sent out surveys, and through community stake holder meetings. The data collection included low-income residents and representatives, Utah State University Eastern, religious organizations/church groups, and key stakeholders.

## **Priority #6 Homelessness**

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments utilized multiple methods to collect information regarding Homelessness in our rural region. SEUALG staff and community partners conducted personal interviews, held focus groups, send out surveys, and through community stake holders meetings. The data collection included low-income residents and representatives, Utah State University Eastern, United Way of Eastern Utah, Economic Development, Department of Workforce Services, Southeastern Utah Health Department, County Commissioners, Local Homeless Coordinating Committees, and key stakeholders.

## **Others for Consideration**

### **EDUCATION**

From surveys, personal interviews, and coalition meetings, education is a prioritized issue and identified as a barrier as individuals and households are trying to exit poverty. Issues that were identified around education were the excessive cost of education, lack of transportation, and affordable options for higher education. Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments will not address this issue as a we have key partnerships with Utah State University, Utah State University Eastern, Adult Education, and School Districts.